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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Reacts to Israeli Muslim Court Raid

Secretary General Denounces Action

NC2111153291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1426 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has denounced the Israeli occupation forces' storming of the shari'a court building in Jerusalem two days ago and the transfer of documents and files dating back 800 years.

In a statement today, he said this act violates the Geneva Conventions.

The Arab League Secretariat has received a memorandum from the Jordanian Government asking that measures be taken to force Israel to return these documents and files. The secretariat distributed the memorandum to member countries.

Statement—'Act Is an Obvious Robbery'

NC2111200091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1537 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—The Arab League Secretariat has strongly denounced the Israeli police and border guards' storming of the shari'a court building in Jerusalem two days ago and the seizure of documents pertaining to the Islamic awqaf and civil status affairs, some of which date back 800 years.

In a statement today, the secretariat affirmed that many of these documents have special historic and religious significance because they represent the only proof of Palestinian ownership of Jerusalem.

The secretariat also emphasized that this act is an obvious robbery; flagrant aggression against the Palestinian people's rights, history, and ownership of Jerusalem; and an attempt by the occupation authorities to illegally seize categorical proof that refute Israel's allegations and claims about its ambitions in the holy city.

The secretariat asked the entire international community, especially the United States and the Soviet Union, to intervene to stop the provocative Israeli measures.

The secretariat also demanded the return of all the documents to the shari'a court in Jerusalem immediately, the end to such acts and practices in the future, respect for cultural values and historic heritage, and the safeguarding of these documents relating to the status of Jerusalem.

The secretariat noted that this act is rejected outright and regarded as a blatant violation of the provisions of international law, particularly the 1949 Geneva Fourth Convention compelling the occupation authorities to respect civilians; to refrain from transgressing their institutions, property, and heritage; and obliges authorities to preserve valuable cultural heritage.

Multilateral Talks To Examine Regional Concord

NC2011205991 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Arab diplomatic sources in Cairo have emphasized that the purpose of the multilateral negotiations is to chart a new form of regional cooperation. The new project, prepared by the EC, is called the "Matutis Plan" and is similar to the "Marshall Plan."

The sources said that under the new plan, the countries in the region will receive Western technical advice, financing by international financial institutions, and assistance from the oil-rich countries. The countries in the region will share water, open their markets, and exchange manpower in return. The plan will also involve a regional arms limitation agreement and the diversion of funds originally earmarked for the purchase of arms to development projects.

The multilateral negotiations are expected to be held in the second half of December in Rome. The sessions will last for two days and then adjourn until February to give the bilateral negotiations time to achieve positive results from the Arab viewpoint. The United States, the Soviet Union, the EC countries, and Japan will take part in the multilateral talks.

The same sources expect Pakistan, Iran, India, Turkey, and Iraq to take part in the second phase of the negotiations. The countries mainly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Arab Maghreb Union, and the Gulf Cooperation Council members will attend these negotiations.

ARABSAT Board Meets, Discusses Problems

LD2111191791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1745 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Tunis, 21 Nov (SPA)—The management board of ARABSAT held its 58th session in Tunis with the kingdom's participation. The board, which meets for five days, will discuss a number of issues relating to the work of the establishment and its future plans and what has been done toward launching the third Arab satellite, which is expected to be launched in January next year. The report of the committee, which was tasked with soliciting offers to manufacture the second generation of satellites, on the outcome of negotiations with the concerned company will also be discussed. The board will also consider a number of administrative, financial, and technical issues.

Tunisian Minister of Communications Habib Lazreg opened the session with an address where he stressed the importance of the role being played by Arab satellites in the sphere of communication and direct television transmission. He praised the high technical efficiency of this

apparatus. He pointed out that the Arabs' resolve to launch the third satellite during the coming months and prepare the second generation are factors which reaffirm the Arab states' interest in consolidating the Arab communication network. He expressed his hope that the ARABSAT network will overcome the difficulties facing it and called on the management board to look into the means for securing the success of the future projects of ARABSAT, especially with regard to funding and launching the second generation satellite.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Chief Condemns Jerusalem Court Raid

LD2111232191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1925 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Nov 91 (SPA)—Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Gabid condemned the storming of the building of the Religious Court of Holy Jerusalem by the Israeli occupation forces last Monday and their seizure of important Islamic documents related to Islamic legal issues of Muslims in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In his statement today, the ICO secretary general affirmed that this savage aggression is considered a new escalation of Israel's hostile practices; a violation of international law, treaties, and agreements; and a new episode in the series of their repeated and deliberate aggressions against the Islamic sanctities and places of worship, the Islamic endowment in Holy Jerusalem, and the occupied Palestinian territories.

He explained that those practices are aimed at the Judaization of the Holy City, at changing its Islamic and civilized character, and at blowing up the current peace efforts in the Middle East. In his statement, Dr. al-Gabid called on the international commmunity, the United Nations, and the international and regional organizations, to condemn these aggressions and to work for securing the return of the documents seized by the Israeli occupation authorities.

He also called on the international community to work for ensuring the international protection of the Palestinian people and holy places in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Holy Jerusalem.

Islamic People's Leadership Secretariat Meets

LD2011122291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 19 Nov (JANA/Arab Maghreb Union pool)—The fourth session of the General Secretariat of the World Islamic People's Leadership, which is meeting 19-20 November, began in Tripoli this morning. The session was opened by the brother secretary of the World Islamic Call Society with a speech in which he welcomed the members of the secretariat and the guests participating in this session. [passage omitted]

He also called on Muslim scholars and active organizations to join the World Islamic People's Leadership, to work for the realization of the objectives pursued by Muslims in the world, and to confront the plots hatched against the Muslims.

Brother Ibrahim al-Wazir, leader of the Movement of Unification and Islamic Action [Harakat al-Tawhid wal 'amal al-Islami], [word indistinct] delivered a speech in which he hailed the role of the World Islamic Call Society in bringing [word indistinct] together the Muslims and in showing interest in the various issues of the Muslim world when the latter is facing (?crusade) campaigns aimed at destroying their civilization and dispossessing them of their potential so that they can no longer offer any resistance. [passage omitted]

Layth Shubaylat, from the Movement of the Oppressed [Harakat al- Mustad'afin] in Jordan, also made a speech in which he began by saying that the new world order, which has imposed the process of capitulation and strengthened what is known as Israel, has prompted the World Islamic People's Leadership to assume its great responsibilities in order to confront the difficulties facing Islam and the Muslims in the world.

Brother Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Labor Party in Egypt, then delivered a speech in which he said that this meeting is taking place at a time when the Great Jamahiriyah is the victim of false accusations from the United States and its allies and that those accusations are unjust and indecent and are aimed at weakening an important center concerned with the fate of the Arab nation. He also urged the participants to devote this meeting to a discussion of these false accusations and to suppport the stand of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Urges Resumption of Dialogue With U.S.

LD2211090791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] The PLO called yesterday for a resumption of the dialogue with the United States that was severed last year.

During the UN General Assembly's annual discussions on the Palestinian issue, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, said that the PLO considers that the time is right to resume the dialogue in order to serve the peace process. There is no justification for delaying the dialogue, he stated.

Mr. Qaddumi described the Madrid conference on peace in the Middle East as an important first step on the long path toward peace.

He added that it should be made clear from the beginning of the talks that it is necessary to achieve a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, according to a

specific timetable, and also to end the Israeli occupation in all its forms. He added that during a transitional period and under UN auspices the Palestinian people must exercise full supervision of the land, natural resources, and all their political and economic affairs along the road toward achieving complete Palestinian sovereignty in the independent state of Palestine.

Ahmad Jibril To Sue U.S. Over Lockerbie

JN2211064591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] At a news conference in the Palestinian camp of Mar Ilyas in Beirut, Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], has affirmed that he will take legal action against the United States in his own name and on behalf of his organization, for falsely accusing him of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in 1988—the incident which resulted in the killing of 270 people. He noted that he is in contact with famous lawyers in Europe and the United States to define the measures necessary to sue the U.S. Government.

Threatens U.S. Interests Worldwide

NC2211062891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Ahmad Jibril, leader of the PFLP-GC, yesterday threatened that in the event of a U.S. attack on Libya because of the planting of bombs on board a Pan Am airplane, U.S. targets all over the world will be attacked.

The leader of the PFLP-GC told correspondents: We will not be mere spectators to a U.S. attack. He added: If Libya is subjected to any kind of attack, U.S. interests all over the world will be in danger.

'Abd-al-Shafi: USSR To Cut Jewish Emigration

JN2211092491 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Nov 91 pp 22, 18

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah in Amman]

[Text] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has disclosed that the delegation received Soviet assurances that the USSR will reduce Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y before leaving for Moscow at the invitation of Soviet leaders, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said: "Former Soviet Foreign Minister Boris [illegible] in stressed to the Palestinian delegation, during the Madrid conference, that Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union will decline for several reasons, including the promotion of democracy and the growth of personal freedoms in the USSR."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that "the Soviets, just like the Americans, are facing the difficult test of achieving peace in the Middle East, and maintaining the resolutions of international legitimacy and the UN Charter."

He said the Palestinian delegation's visit to the USSR "gives it a chance to directly thank the Soviet Union, whose policy on Palestinian rights has always been clear."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that "there exist red lines I cannot cross, and the delegation acts freely and is not influenced by the Americans."

He added: "The red lines are the Palestinian principles determined by the Palestine National Council resolutions, which insist on self-determination, establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and the rights of Palestinian refugees in accordance with UN Resolution 194."

He said "the intifadah was not launched by pushing a button, and therefore cannot be stopped by pushing another; it is owned by the Palestinian masses, who are the only ones that can stop the intifadah when they see that the peace negotiations are moving in the right direction and meeting Palestinian demands."

He rejected the claim that the Palestinian delegation is a substitute for the PLO, saying that "the Palestinian delegation and the entire Palestinian people are loyal to the PLO."

He added: "We will not be a new Wafd Party for the Palestinians in Palestine, as is the case with the Wafd Party in Egypt. We have a temporary fixed-term mission, after which the PLO will lead the march of the Palestinian people."

"So far," Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said, "the United States is serious about seeking peace in the Middle East, but it insists on its options, and we are still at the beginning of the road."

He explained: "The Israelis are adopting an intransigent position, but this will not be the standard. They will continue to adopt a hard-line policy at the beginning of the negotiations, but they will finally comply with the peace process under pressure from average Israelis who truly yearn for peace."

He denied that any obstacles to Arab coordination existed during the first round of negotiations in Madrid and hoped that none will emerge during the second round.

Concluding his statement to AL-RA'Y, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the Palestinian delegation will return to Amman from Moscow in two or three days. It will then join the Jordanian delegation and travel to Washington before the end of this month.

Algeria

FLN in Emergency Session Over Unity Government

LD2111232991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The emergency session of the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee [CC] started today. Sources close to the CC stated that the session was characterized by a speech delivered by FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri, who focused on the strategy that the party ought to follow in anticipation of the upcoming [general] elections, as well as means for mobilizing the party's grass-roots and the electorate so as to guarantee winning the largest possible number of seats in the next parliament.

The same sources added that Mr. Mehri also discussed the adverse consequences following the decision of a number of the party's activists to put forward their candidacies with the lists of independents, a matter which would result in fragmenting the vote of the electorate. Mr. Mehri reiterated during his speech his assertion that it will be impossible for any party to resolve the country's current crisis alone. The solution, according to him, will be in a government of national unity.

Sources close to today's session stated that it is expected that the FLN CC will conclude its proceedings with an appeal to the other political parties to take part in Algeria's first-ever multiparty legislative elections. The same sources pointed out that the appeal will be primarily addressed to the Islamic Salvation Front, which has not yet decided whether it is going to boycott or participate in the elections.

It is expected that the proceedings of this session will conclude tomorrow. It will be followed by a national conference of the FLN's candidates in the upcoming elections.

Egypt

Butrus Ghali Elected UN Secretary General

NC2211063091 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] The UN Security Council has elected Dr. Butrus Ghali as UN secretary general to succeed Javier Perez de Cuellar, whose term ends in December. During the balloting at dawn today, Dr. Ghali won 11 votes with four members abstaining. None of the Security Council's 15 members opposed Dr. Ghali's appointment. Dr. Ghali won two votes more than the required quorum for this post. His strongest rival, Zimbabwe's finance minister, won only seven votes with two members opposed and six abstaining.

The UN Security Council is scheduled to submit its recommendation to the UN General Assembly on the election of Dr. Ghali as UN secretary general for four years beginning 1 January 1992.

Comments on Election

NC2211125891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Bonn, 22 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations and minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad affairs, has described his election by the UN Security Council as the new UN secretary general as a victory for Egyptian diplomacy, the Arab world, Africa, and Third World countries.

In an exclusive statement to MENA's Bonn correspondent, Dr. Ghali expressed his thanks to President Husni Mubarak for nominating him for this leading international position and for his strong support. Dr. Ghali said that President Mubarak had helped him on the diplomatic level during his excellency's contacts with head of states and governments. It would have been impossible for me to succeed in being nominated for the UN secretary general's post had it not been for President Mubarak's wise leadership and assistance, Dr. Ghali added.

Dr. Ghali went on to express the hope that the UN member states will assist him in his new post. He pointed out that the UN secretary general is an international employee entrusted with implementing the resolutions adopted by the member states of the General Assembly and the Security Council. He said that without the support of the UN member states it would be difficult for the UN secretary general to attain UN objectives.

Dr. Ghali stated that UN objectives call for establishing world peace and resolving disputes by peaceful means and activating cooperation among various states. UN objectives also call for working to settle issues which might crop up in the years to come—whether they involve supporting human rights and democratic regimes in the world, or resolving environmental and disarmament problems—so that we can achieve a just and lasting peace and realize "the ideal society" which the Arab thinker al-Farabi discussed, Dr. Ghali said. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Praises Selection

NC2211111791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0937 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed Egypt's pleasure at the election of one of its sons, Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations, to the post of UN secretary general. He said that this election constitutes appreciation of Egypt and its moderate and wise policy led by President Husni Mubarak. This came in a statement that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa made today on the occasion of the UN Security Council's election last night of

Dr. Ghali to this high international post at the head of the most important international body.

Foreign Minister Musa said that the election of Dr. Ghali as the UN secretary general embodies the international appreciation of Egypt's standing as a major African country, a Nonaligned country, and the largest Arab country. He pointed out that this election also demonstrates international society's appreciation of Egypt as a country that calls for a just peace and which is still playing a major role on the path toward comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He said that Dr. Ghali's election—with the world on the threshold of a new era of international relations—comes at a time when the situation requires persistent efforts to assert the Third World's role in the process of building a new world on the basis of cooperation, dialogue, and complete participation. [passage omitted]

Musa on Talks, Israel, Nonproliferation Treaty

NC2111200191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1516 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has disclosed that the Foreign Ministry is currently following up on the ideas and proposals presented by President Husni Mubarak yesterday in his important speech to the European Parliament.

Musa said that Egypt supports expediting bilateral negotiations to reach a peaceful settlement based on the land-for-peace principle and, as far the Palestinian issue is concerned, the start of the important intial phase of the settlement, the interim phase. Therefore, he continued, Egypt supports the initiation of bilateral talks as soon as possible

As for the multilateral talks, he said, they are still the subject of study and contacts. I met today with the U.S. ambassador for consultations on the next stage of the peace process.

Musa termed Yitzhaq Shamir's statement about Israel's readiness to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty a good sign, and he stated that Israel's readiness to sign the treaty and its actual signing will constitute a positive step toward arms control and easing tension in the Middle East. In addition, he said, it will demonstrate support for the multilateral negotiations process.

Musa said that Egypt welcomes Eduard Shevardnadze's appointment as Soviet foreign minister. I sent him a congratulatory cable today, and we will continue coordinating with the Soviet Union as a state that has called for an international conference, that is interested in establishing peace in the Middle East, and that has good ties with Egypt and the Arab world, he added.

Egypt hopes for and asks our brothers in Somalia to stop the bloody conflict and turn toward constructing a government. Somalia is a fraternal state, he added, and the Somali people are fraternal people. He expressed his concern over the continuing tense situation there and said he hopes that the clashes among the brothers will end in the interest of sisterly Somalia. Egypt is willing to help find a peaceful settlement that will ensure Somali territorial integrity and the Somali people's wishes, Musa said.

Musa noted that Mediterranean cooperation and security contacts will be numerous in the wake of the Greek foreign minister's call for a tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Italy, and Greece. In fact, he added, we have discussed this issue with Italian officials, and I have discussed this matter with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis. More than one meeting will be held to discuss cooperation in the Mediterranean, but no date has yet been set for this.

Editorials Discuss Progress of Peace Talks

Criticize Israeli Golan Settlements

NC0811080191 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 8 Nov 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today headlined **The Next Round of the Battle for Peace**, AL-JUMHURIYAH describes Israel's establishment of a new settlement in the occupied Golan Heights as an overt provocative measure by the Israeli Government.

The paper refers to Egypt's denunciation of this act, which it considers as an obstacle to the current peace efforts. The paper urges the Arabs to keep pressing ahead in the peace negotiations despite the Israeli Government's intransigent policy. The paper says that the first phase of the peace talks has ended in favor of the Arabs' viewpoint, and it asserts that this is enough encouragement for the Arab negotiators to carry on patiently and decisively so that we can reach a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-AHRAM shares AL-JUMHURIYAH's view on the issue. It believes that the opening of a new settlement in the Syrian Golan Heights shows that Israel is still unprepared for peace despite its participation in the Madrid talks.

The paper warns the Arab and Palestinian sides not to get embroiled in reacting to these deliberate Israeli provocations which aim to undermine the whole peace process.

U.S. Moving Closer to 'Arab Stand'

NC1611070991 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 16 Nov 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its "Opinion" column, AL-AHRAM comments on U.S. officials' stands on Israeli settlements. The paper says that when James Baker described the building of a

new settlement in the Golan Heights on the eve of the peace talks as a provocative act, it may have been the first time that a ranking U.S. official used specific public and offensive language against Israel.

The newspaper believes that this statement is important because it was made during an official U.S. news conference.

The newspaper expressed its belief that if setting up a new Israeli settlement in the Golan Heights is a provocative act against Syria, its description as such by the U.S. secretary of state could mean that the United States also believes it is a provocative act. Therefore, the United States would be moving closer to the Arab stand because both are being subjected to Israeli provocations.

The newspaper writes that the U.S. sentiment goes back to Washington's opinion that this act was unjustified and the fact that it is being carried out now is an intentional attempt to antagonize the United States because it is solely responsible for the continuation of the peace process. It does not seem that Washington will forgive this incident because the peace it has vowed to establish is no longer merely a political objective within the framework of U.S. global strategy; rather, it has become a symbol of the status and power of the United States.

Results 'Not That Bad'

NC1011083891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0611 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—In an editorial headlined *The First Harvest*, AL-AHRAM notes that the first round of peace negotiations has shown that Israel wants to normalize relations with Arab parties before discussing the basic issues concerning the Arabs: the withdrawal of and the halting of the building of settlements.

The paper points out that this stand was most apparent in the negotiations with the Syrian and Lebanese delegations. The talks between Israel and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the paper says, may have been easier or less complicated. An agreement was reached between those sides on separate and simultaneous negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians and on Israel's commitment to talks on autonomy, followed by discussions on the ultimate status of the occupied territories.

The paper says that the first round's harvest was not that bad considering that these are the first negotiations in 43 years. Therefore, the paper states, it can be said that the parties concerned have taken the first step in the desired direction.

In another editorial, AL-AHRAM censures Israel's attempts to hamper the Middle East peace process which, it adds, began in Madrid on 30 October.

Israel's announcement of a new settlement in the Syrian Golan Heights reaffirms the continuation of the Shamir government's provocative course which depends on the initiation of measures that violate the principles of international legitimacy. This seeks an Arab reaction, and then will use this to demonstrate that the Arabs do not want peace.

The paper says that Israel may have succeeded with this method in past decades but that the situation now has changed. Several leaders of major powers have realized the dimensions of the Israeli game of provocation.

In conclusion, the paper emphasizes that the continuation of the Israeli Government's provocative acts requires a unified Arab stand on the need to halt the Jewish settlement process in the occupied territories as a logical prelude to the initiation of bilateral and regional negotiations.

Officials Deny Reported Infiltration Into Israel

NC1811140491 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 14 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by Ahmad Musa]

[Text] Major General Hasan al-Ajhuri, assistant interior minister and director of the Ports Security Department, has stated that Egyptian security forces are combing the Egyptian-Israeli border and investigating Israeli authorities' claims that four terrorists infiltrated their territories from Egypt.

Maj. Gen. al-Ajhuri told AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I that the claims are baseless, particularly as Egyptian land, sea, and airports and exit points have not reported any terrorists infiltrating recently, or anyone carrying weapons and explosives crossing into Israel. He added that the south Sinai and central security departments were coordinating a search along the barbed wire separating the countries. He said that Israeli reports over the past two days are baseless.

Maj. Gen. al-Sayyid al-Banawi, assistant interior minister and head of south Sinai security, emphasized that no one has infiltrated near border marker 91, through which Israel claimed that four armed people had passed. Israeli radio, he said, was the only one to broadcast this false report.

Editor Criticizes Western Threats Against Libya

NC1711175091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—The Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I has warned that the recent U.S. and British threats and hints toward Libya can disrupt Middle Eastern stability and greatly endanger the entire peace process in a way that will shatter the atmosphere of optimism and hope prevailing in the region.

In an article by its chief editor, the newspaper says that reports of intentions to carry out retaliatory actions, including a military operation, against Libya, which is being accused of the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner

over Lockerbie, Scotland, threaten the credibility that the Bush administration won in the Arab world during the Gulf war and due to its balanced stand on the Middle East peace issue.

AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I says that the opening of files on dirty operations by the world's intelligence services, including the U.S., British, and Israeli services, can open a Pandora's box of accusations about operations that are no less terrorist in nature than the bombing of the U.S. airliner, in which 270 Americans died.

The newspaper emphasizes that no one argues with condemning terrorism and encouraging all international measures to combat and eradicate it from its roots, but mixing the need to do this and random retaliation is a huge danger not only to our region but to the credibility of the new world order.

The newspaper commends Libya's denunciation of all forms of terrorism and its call on Washington to resort to the law, wisdom, and reason through the formation of neutral international investigative committees or by referring the matter to the International Court of Justice.

Columnist Notes Saddam's 'Crimes' Against Kuwait

NC1811164491 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 16 Nov 91 p 5

[Muhammad al-Hayawan column: "Word of Love"]

[Excerpts] Society and victims can forgive. A woman feels shame, however, even though she committed no crime but rather was an innocent victim. The picture is grim. It is the picture of the victims raped by Saddam Husayn and his soldiers. These cases number around 1,000, and the reactions in each case differ. But they are all the ugly result of the criminal Iraqi invasion of Kuwait or one of its harsh effects on innocent people and individuals. [passage omitted]

Will God forgive Saddam for his crimes of destruction, sabotage, torture, and rape? Can the Kuwaiti people forgive those who harmed it and those who helped, backed, and supported those who harmed it? To what extent will the Kuwaiti people forgive? Can they forgive the treachery, the robbery, the sabotage, the fires, and the rapes? All these crimes have long-term consequences, and their outcome does not cease at a certain level. Can the Kuwaiti people forgive or be magnanimous? The crimes are ugly, and neither God, his prophets, nor the faithful condone them.

There is a no less ugly crime, namely the crime of the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq's jails. It is not believed that Iraq will intentionally release them because they will expose the ugliness of the torture that they suffered. Some of them died from torture, others lost their minds, and others lost their self-respect and parts of their bodies. Some of them had their dignity threatened. The Ba'th Party men are trained in physical and mental torture and are masters of them. They have ruled the Iraqi people with iron, fire, and torture, and they have turned the people into an inert body in which there is no resistance and where the dignity of man has died. What has Saddam done to the Kuwaiti prisoners? Why is he procrastinating in their release? He must certainly wants to cover up his ugly crime, or one of his crimes.

Iran Wants 'Finger in Every Arab Country's Pie'

NC1011140791 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Nov 91 p 12

[Samir Rajab column: "Dividing Lines"]

[Text] Some Gulf states have begun to flirt with Iran publicly and openly.

A number of these countries did not break relations with Iran throughout its fierce war with Iraq. Therefore, following Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, the existing relations were strengthened.

To be fair, we must add that the flirtation is mutual. I believe, however, that in all cases the Iranians are the beneficiaries. They have always sought to impose their control over the Arabs although circumstances have not helped them implement their goal.

The current thinking in the Gulf is that Iran is in the regional arena and that it cannot be ignored in any of the security arrangements. The question that remains is: Are Iranian intentions truly honest?

All previous and current experiences affirm that Tehran's ayatollahs use all legitimate and illegitimate methods inside the Arab homeland to spread their extremist "ideas." They believe that this is a form of jihad for Islam.

Talks are currently under way between Qatar and Iran to extend a water pipeline from the northeastern part of the city of Ahvaz, where the River Qarun flows, to the Qatari coast.

Tehran is pushing for this project so that it can have a finger in every Arab country's pie. After that, the road becomes open for it to do what it pleases.

We are not the protectors of the Gulf or of other countries. We stand with everyone to confirm the principles of sovereignty and to defend the free will of the people to the utmost degree.

I do not know why I personally am skeptical about this "rapprochement," which comes at a time when the Middle East peace process has entered the first stages of a practical application and when the Damascus declaration countries' foreign ministers will be meeting in Cairo today.

Libya

Pan Am Bombing Defendant Denies Charges

JN2211180391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Interview with al-Amin Khalifah Fuhaymah, "a Libyan national accused of blowing up the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie," by correspondent Faridah al-Shubashi in Tripoli on 21 November—recorded]

[Text] [al-Shubashi] Al-Amin Fuhaymah, you are one of the two defendants in the case of the Pan American flight over Lockerbie, and your extradition is being sought. Does the common proverb where there is smoke, there is fire apply to you? Otherwise, how do you reply to the charges brought against you?

[Fuhaymah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I am the citizen al-Amin Khalifah Fuhaymah. I was very surprised when I heard my name on the radio and in the other mass media. They associated my name with alleged accusations. This is a slander of my reputation and myself which affects my family, employment, and treatment.

[al-Shubashi] Mr. Fuhaymah, why are these charges being brought against you? What are the circumstances that associate you with these charges?

[Fuhaymah] In fact, this is because it is easy to fabricate such a charge against an airport employee. I was indeed responsible for directing Libyan Arab Airlines in Malta, specifically during the period between 11 [word indistinct] 1982 and 30 September 1988. I stopped working there, however, almost three months before the incident. My name is well known in Malta.

[al-Shubashi] In other words, the explosion took place after you [words indistinct] left Malta?

[Fuhaymah] Definitely.

[al-Shubashi] That means that you have no connection with the incident whatsoever.

[Fuhaymah] Absolutely. I am neither an intelligence man nor a politician. I am simply a decent employee. Consequently, I want to defend myself and my reputation in the first place. Moreover, I want to sue those who are behind these false accusations. I am ready to appear before any Libyan court to refute these accusations, because I am a Libyan citizen and I am subject to all my country's laws. I indeed will not hand myself over to America because I do not trust them. As you know, there is a statesman, Noriega, whom all of us know of, whose fate has been unknown for two years. How then do you imagine that an ordinary man would be treated? Moreover, I have no guarantees from the Western states. In fact, it has not been ruled that those who leveled the false accusations would pass a false judgment against me—that is, if the person in question is me personally. But if they are interested in the name Fuhaymah, there was an agent for America, affiliated with U.S. intelligence, who died in Geneva years ago. If the wanted person is one of those agents, dubbed Fuhaymah, whom they know, then that is their own and his affair. I have nothing to do with it. As for me, I have nothing to do with these fabricated charges. Praise be to God, the Maltese airline's statement and the Maltese prime minister's statement acquit me of this charge.

[al-Shubashi] Brother Fuhaymah, you are saying that there could be confusion with your names. It is your photo, however, that is published in the newspapers.

[Fuhaymah] As for the name, certainly there is confusion regarding my name. As for the photo, my name is known in Malta, and they definitely took the photo from Maltese authorities.

[al-Shubashi] Did you eventually deny any accusation made to you that you committed such terrorist acts?

[Fuhaymah] Definitely, because this contravenes my principles and the values with which I was raised and which do not permit me to kill an innocent soul, be it a child, man, or woman. I am the father of five children; I have a wife, brothers, and a father and mother. I can feel all dimensions of family ties. Consequently, I reiterate my rejection of this deliberate distortion, in both form and content. If they have other scores to settle with Libya, let them look for a means other than defaming innocent people and stigmatizing me.

[al-Shubashi] Thank, Brother al-Amin Fuhaymah.

Justice Minister on Investigations

JN2111194091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1750 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Interview with Ibrahim Bakkar, "secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and justice minister," by correspondent Faridah al-Shubashi in Tripoli on 21 November—recorded]

[Text] [al-Shubashi] The Libyan authorities have announced that they are now investigating the Pan Am and UTA incidents. Have these investigations really begun? Is there any cooperation with the international sides concerning the two incidents?

[Bakkar] Thank you for granting me this opportunity to tell what the General People's Committee for Justice in the Jamahiriyah is doing about this important and vital issue in which the whole world, and more than anyone else, Libya, is interested. This is because the truth is one of our basic goals, one of our original traits, not to mention the significance of this issue, to which we attach great and special importance.

The investigations began the moment that this issue reached the newspapers, and when we officially received, through the Italian Embassy, a memorandum concerning accusations leveled at Libyan citizens in the incident involving the U.S. aircraft Pan Am flight 103, which was

blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland on 21 August 1988. We received these accusations and studied them carefully, because we felt that this issue not only concerns the United States and Britain but also us. We are concerned for the truth to come out, that the facts about the charges against the two Libyan citizens must appear, and to ascertain their identity—whether their names are real or false. The People's Committee for Justice held an urgent meeting before holding a legal meeting to which prominent Libyan legal and judicial figures were invited.

An investigative judge was chosen from the prominent men of law at the highest levels of the Libyan judiciary, Professor Ahmad Tahir al-Zawi, a member and counselor of the Supreme Court, to begin immediate investigations. He began his investigation the moment we received these documents and papers. He is now pursuing legal measures and examining papers. These papers are not complete. These are, as we said, significant accusations. He received these papers two days ago. Now he is completely involved in his studies. We hope he will end his legal studies next Sunday at the latest. He will be prepared to receive and discuss matters with any side concerned. He might be required to coordinate with the British and U.S. courts to reach the truth, which is of concern to all of us. Reaching the truth will be a very important basis.

[al-Shubashi] Your Excellency, as for UTA and France?

[Bakkar] As for the French incident, that is another matter. We did not receive anything on that legally, through the judge, because the judge in fact took a different course, quite different from the path that we regard as legal. He is supposed to inform us officially. When this is done, it will be our duty to take the same measures and use the same methods to reach the truth. Yet [word indistinct] lawyers dealing with the issue from the legal standpoint in full coordination with the French judiciary. Moreover, the issue (?presented) to the French judiciary is quite different from that before the U.S. judiciary. Therefore, we are prepared to reveal the truth with any side. We also add we wish that the French judge had informed us of the legal proceedings in accordance with the standard operating procedure—namely, informing the concerned side in order to give us a chance to answer these charges through legal procedure, not to have to follow a political or media course.

We deal with the law, and the men of the law have a different language, one which is different from political language. We would have liked this to be a legal one until the truth comes out. Then the politicians could continue saying what they want to say.

We thank [word indistinct] for this opportunity, and I hope to meet so that the picture will be clear to the listeners and those who wish to find the truth.

ICO Head Expresses Support to al-Qadhdhafi

LD2111230391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1139 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Nov (JANA)—Dr Hamid Algabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has expressed the ICO's solidarity with the people of the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting any attempt to violate the Libyan people's sovereignty. In a cable sent to the brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi], Dr Algabid said: We are following with increasing anxiety the U.S. and British allegations against the Great Jamahiriyah regarding the crash of the Pan Am airliner on British territory. The ICO secretary general reaffirmed that all Muslims the world over know and appreciate the stand of the Great Jamahiriyah within the framework of the ICO—the stand that rejects all types of terrorism. He pointed out that the measures taken by the Great Jamahiriyah to put the spotlight on this regrettable incident provides clear evidence that the Great Jamahiriyah is participating in the international efforts to combat terrorism.

Morocco

King Hassan Discusses Sahara, Middle East Talks

LD2211153191 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Rabat, Nov. 22 (MAP)—King Hassan II asserted that Morocco's territorial integrity will be completed through the referendum in the Sahara and that truth will prevail.

In an interview with Italian journalist Olga Bessara circulated Thursday by Spanish daily EL PAIS, King Hassan II who will pay a three day state visit to Italy as of next Monday said he does not see any viable solution for the Sahara populations other than integration to Morocco. "...I do not see any progress or development for them without Morocco", the sovereign said.

Of the projected referendum in the Sahara under the UN aegis, the sovereign said he had himself asked for the self-determination consultation as early as 1964 in Franco's days, then in 1981 at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and later on at the United Nations. "The referendum was not imposed on Morocco. We requested it to unmask lies", he said deploring that the Sahara issue has and is still straining relations between Morocco and Algeria, "two neighboring and brotherly countries".

He said the fact to be colonized by two powers was a tragedy for Morocco. "Had we been colonized by a one colonizer, we would have settled the problem once and for all, instead of this phased out decolonization process."

Regarding the projected economic achievements in the Sahara, King Hassan II said there are endless possibilities and the Sahara is a propitious field for huge investments.

Dealing with the Middle East peace process, King Hassan II pointed out that the Israeli-Arab dispute got more complicated by the Israeli-Muslim dispute after the occupation of Jerusalem in view of the paramount importance the one billion and two million Muslims throughout the world grant to this holy city. "As the chairman of the al-Quds [Jerusalem] Committee, I do not claim that I can play a specific role, but I have a special responsibility regarding all Muslim countries", the sovereign said.

King Hassan II said all Arab countries, regardless of their geographic location, can play a key role in the peace process. Israel's immediate neighbors such as Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians, are undoubtedly more concerned but they must have a solid background to show them solidarity and support.

Of a possible solution to the Palestinian issue, the sovereign said he personally thinks that Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians who lived together for centuries without any sovereignty problem can some day go back to this formula. This is not an impossible dream. It needs time but I think this is possible.

About a possible meeting with Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir, King Hassan II said "as the chairman of the al-Quds Committee, I can meet him if he has practical and positive proposals to make, proposals that are likely to satisfy the Islamic community".

The sovereign added that the Madrid peace conference was a turning point in history evolution, because it was the first time that all concerned parties sat around the same table and that taboos were shattered. The process has now started and cannot stop, let's only hope that it will have a happy end.

Dealing with Morocco's political choices in the context of the constitutional monarchy, King Hassan II noted that the word "constitutional" means there is a democracy. Now, he said, democracy can be improved but one must not lapse into demagogy.

Sudan

Rebel Akol Confirms Bor Attack, Movement South

EA2111212591 Khartoum SUNA in English 1717 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Nairobi, 21 Nov (SUNA)—Rebel Lam Akol, who announced his split from the rebellion movement of John Garang recently, has confirmed that his forces and that of rebel Riak Machar had entered Bor town, south Sudan. Rebel Akol told SUNA correspondent in Nairobi that his forces had entered Bor during the previous days and they were still moving southward on a mopping-up operation.

The armed forces' spokesman said in a press statement Wednesday [20 November] that the conflict at Bor town, the centre of the rebellion movement, wound up in favour of those who had split from the rebellion movement led by rebels Lam Akol and Riak Machar, adding that the forces of rebel John Garang had suffered heavy casualties and damage in the fighting.

Al-Bashir Reiterates Support for Libya

LD2011223191 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Khartoum (Al-Harth [November] 19) JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY—Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in sisterly Sudan, reaffirmed the Arab people in sisterly Sudan would stand by their brothers in Great Jamahariyah.

He confirmed that any aggression against the Great Jamahariyah would also be considered aggression against Sudan.

Addressing a large Jamahari crowd in the al-Qulayd area he asserted that the solid stance of Sudan would not change and that any aggression against any inch of Arab and Islamic land will be interpreted as aggression against Sudan.

*Criminals Sentenced to Death by Crucifixion

92P40066A Khartoum AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH in Arabic 28 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Special Court Number Two, presided over by Judge Najim al-Din Hamid, the judge for northern Darfur District, together with court members Major Taj al-Sirr Khalifah and (police) Maj. Ahmad Bakhayt Haraz, issued a death by crucifixion sentence upon the accused Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid and his gang: Muhammad Adam, 'Ali Muhammad Bashir, and Isma'il Harun. After they were found guilty, the court passed the sentence in accordance with paragraph 338-87 of the penalties for robbery causing death law and paragraph 43-26 of the law on weapons, ammunition, and explosives.

Western Sahara

Polisario Accuses Morocco of Violating Cease-Fire

LD2111134291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] We begin the world news with this item on the Western Sahara: The Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el Hamra and Rio de Ora [Polisario] has renewed its accusation that Morocco violated the cease-fire in the Western Sahara two days ago, on 19 November.

The Saharan Information Ministry issued a statement yesterday saying that the Moroccan Air Force attacked two Saharan positions in the (Douji) and Zag regions. The statement added that this new Moroccan violation of the cease-fire is evidence of an intention to sabotage the UN peace plan. It also noted the silence observed by the United Nations which, it said, harms the political and moral credibility of that organization.

Kuwait

Amir Tours Countries, Praises Gulf War Support

Meets With Gorbachev

NC1811213391 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, has expressed his thanks and gratitude to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet people for their support of UN resolutions calling for the end of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

His highness the amir of Kuwait said he hopes that the bilateral relations and joint cooperation between Kuwait and the Soviet Union will development more in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

These comments came an approximately 30-minute meeting between his highness the amir and Soviet President Gorbachev in the Kremlin in Moscow today, the second day of his highness' visit to the Soviet Union.

President Gorbachev welcomed his highness the amir's visit to the Soviet union, saying that he is receiving a friend in whose personal friendship he takes pride. He emphasized that the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation was a victory not only for Kuwait but for the Soviet Union.

President Gorbachev expressed his confidence that relations between the two countries will develop and said that transcending the crisis of the Iraqi occupation has added a new dimension to the warm relations between Moscow and Kuwait.

After the meeting between the amir of Kuwait and President Gorbachev, expanded talks began in the presence of senior officials from the two sides. The talks were attended by Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan; Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamud 'Abdallah al-Ruqba; Commerce and Industry Minister 'Abdallah Hasan al-Jarallah; Muhammad Yusuf al-'Arabi, deputy chief of the amir's court; Ibrahim Muhammad al-Shatwi, director of his highness the amir's office; Badr Imshari al-Humaydi, director general of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development; and Kuwati Ambassador in Moscow 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Du'ayj.

Participating in the talks on the Soviet side were Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin; Ivan Barayev, member of the State Council for Economic Affairs; Pary Proksin [name as heard], adviser to the president for international relations; and Andrey Grachev, press spokesman for the president.

High highness the amir of Kuwait then met with a group of the children of Kuwaiti prisoners held by the Iraqi regime, who are accompanying his highness the amir during his current visit to Moscow. A prisoner's daughter delivered a speech, a Russian copy of which was given to president Gorbachev, explaining the sufferings of the prisoners and their families. Signs of sorrow were clearly seen on the face of the Soviet president, who expressed his sympathy and solidarity with the Kuwaiti prisoners and their children.

President Gorbachev said that he agreed with his highness the amir to coordinate with the governments of the world to exert more pressure on the Iraqi authorities to release the Kuwaiti prisoners. President Gorbachev emphasized the need to end the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners as soon as possible within a humanitarian framework.

After the meeting with the children of the Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons, his highness the amir presented a gift to the Soviet president as an expression of thanks and gratitude of the Kuwaiti Government and people for the Soviet Union's stand on the crisis of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

[Words indistinct] luncheon at the Kremlin in honor of his highness the amir that was attended by senior officials from the two sides.

Meets Yeltsin, Departs for Italy

NC1911113091 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, will begin his first official visit to Italy today. He will offer thanks and appreciation to the Italian leadership for its honorable stands toward Kuwait during its ordeal.

His highness the amir met yesterday with Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, in the Kremlin at end of his visit to the USSR. They discussed cooperation between Kuwait and the Russian Federation.

The president of the Russian Federation also met with a delegation of the sons of the Kuwaiti POW's detained by the Iraqi regime. The Russian president said Moscow will do its utmost to secure the release of the Kuwaitis detained by the Iraqi regime.

Amir, Delegation Return to Kuwait

LD2011201291 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Summary] Kuwait, 20 Nov (KUNA)—His highness the amir of Kuwait and members of the delegation accompanying him returned to Kuwait at 1645 from a visit to Turkey, China, and the Soviet Union, during which the amir expressed Kuwait's thanks for these states' support for Kuwait.

Shevardnadze Praises Amir's Visit

NC2111105091 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Moscow—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has commended the results of his highness the

Kuwaiti amir's visit to the Soviet Union, describing it as a very significant visit which succeeded in laying a solid foundation for bilateral cooperation.

In statements to SAWT AL-KUWAYT, Shevardnadze said the best way to release the Kuwaiti POW's and detainees who are being held by the Iraqi regime is to work seriously at the international level to put into effect the UN Security Council resolutions on the release of all POW's.

Shevardnadze asserted that the Arab Gulf countries will play a significant role in the future to consolidate security and stability in the Gulf region and to give impetus to the Middle East peace process. He called for seeking a formula for security cooperation in the Gulf to avoid a recurrence of the tragedy of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Knesset Decision on Golan 'Strongly Condemned'

LD1511215591 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0939 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 15 Nov (KUNA)—Kuwait today strongly condemned the Israeli Knesset's recent decision to consider the Syrian Golan Heights as nonnegotiable Israeli territory.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that this Israeli decision confirms that Israel does not want peace and is only interested in provoking the world's feelings and challenging international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

At the end of his statement, the source reiterated Kuwait's call on all the countries participating in the peace conference, in accordance with international legitimacy, to stay on the path and to continue to exert their efforts, despite all the obstacles, for the sake of achieving the comprehensive and just peace to which everyone, except Israel, aspires.

Official on Report of Radiation Pollution

LD1511133791 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Nov (KUNA)— An official at the Ministry of Public Health has said there is no basis for fears, to which a British newspaper report had given rise, that there has been radiation pollution as a result of the war to liberate Kuwait. Nuclear engineer Samir Yusuf, head of the Health Ministry's Department for Radiation Protection, told AL-WATAN today that this report is exaggerated in such a way as to deprive it to a considerable degree of any scientific basis, and hence of its credibility. He said that a specialized committee from the Kuwaiti ministry will conduct scientific studies on this issue, and will collect samples from the places where Iraqi military equipment was damaged to measure their levels of radiation. He pointed out that the authorities concerned have been collecting this equipment in specific places. Therefore there is nothing to endanger the lives of the citizens, or expose them to the danger of pollution. He stated that if, for argument's sake, radiation does exist, it does not exceed the levels found naturally throughout the world.

Kuwaiti, U.S. Troops Conduct Landing Exercises

NC1711164391 Paris AFP in English 1533 GMT 17 Nov 91

[By Michael Adler]

[Text] Gibb's Range, Kuwait, Nov 17 (AFP) - Kuwaiti troops carried out landing exercises Sunday with U.S. forces, as a Kuwaiti general said his country knows it needs military help.

A token force of 90 Kuwaiti troops, 60 of them reservists, disembarked from Puma helicopters to fire at man-sized plastic "silhouettes" in a stretch of desert in western Kuwait.

"We don't fight on our own anymore," said Brigadier Ali al-Mu'min, in charge of operations and planning for the "Eager Mace" exercises. "We have to be able to understand each other and be able to fight together," he added about cooperation with allies.

He said 1,000 Kuwaiti troops were involved in exercises that have included Kuwaiti Air Force planes flying with American warplanes and joint naval operations.

Gibb's Range is northwest of the capital, Kuwait City, and about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the Iraqi border.

A Western diplomat said in Kuwait City on Sunday, however, that Kuwait had failed to rebuild its devastated army since the Gulf war.

He said the Kuwait military "is the one area in Kuwait where nothing has happened since liberation" from an Iraqi occupation last February with the Gulf war.

The diplomat described the army as suffering from the expulsion of some 5,000 "bidoons"—people without nationality whom Kuwait feels sympathized with the Iraqis. This rejection of the bidoons, who have traditionally been active in security services, had reduced the population pool the army draw from.

But Kuwaiti army officers said the army was 20,000-strong and rebuilding.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Addresses National Day Rally

JN1811211591 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Speech by Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id at "the year of industry rally" held on the occasion of Oman's 21st National Day anniversary at the Police Academy in (Luwayyah) on 18 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God, who deserves praise; prayers and peace be upon the Seal of the Prophets, his family, and righteous companions.

Dear citizens: On this blessed day, in which we celebrate the 21st anniversary of the modern Omani renaissance, we are pleased to congratulate you on this happy and dear occasion, thanking Almighty God for His help and for the great achievements we attained. [passage omitted]

O Citizens: The foundation of the Consultative Council in the country was a prominent act in the life of the Omani society, and a fruitful experiment that yielded good results. On many occasions, we expressed satisfaction with the positive role played by the council and with the positive response it showed in every stage during the past 10 years. This resulted in reinforcing the efforts exerted to develop the various sectors of production and services throughout the Sultanate. We express our thanks and appreciation to the council for the constructive and fruitful work.

Today, we are before a new experiment, which is considered another step on the path of building the Omani citizen and giving him the opportunity to shoulder his responsibility in term of serving his homeland in a greater and more comprehensive way. Measures have been taken to establish the Shura Council, thereby, reiterating the decision we announced in our speech on the glorious 20th National Day and in our explanations of the bases and rules on which this council will be built—which we made during our tours of the country's provinces. We express our appreciation for the method in which the provinces elected their (?candidates). This affirms the Omani citizen's awareness and proves that—in assuming his tasks—the Omani proceeds from a deep-rooted culture in history which affirms that he is capable of contributing positively to the march of comprehensive prosperity in his country. [applause]

The experiment of electing members, who represent the provinces in the Shura Council, has given us new understandings from which we will benefit in the council's coming terms, particularly with regard to each region's (?census) to achieve the required balance in the regions' representation. [applause]

As we congratulate the Omani citizens on this new council, we ask Almighty God to grant it success in shouldering the tasks entrusted to it to achieve a happier and more prosperous future for this beloved homeland. [applause]

O Citizens: We have always adopted objective policy in our foreign relations. We extend the hand of friendship and cooperation to all countries, which converge with us on the principles of peaceful coexistence among all countries and nations and mutual respect of the rights to national sovereignty. We reiterate these principles; and work in accordance with them to achieve peace and stability and to guarantee the establishment of positive relations among the various world counties. [applause]

As we continue our efforts with our brothers, the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, to achieve stability in our region and to serve the basic interests of their people, we would like to praise these countries' solidarity and cooperation to overcome crises. We would like also to praise their continuous efforts to apply the rules of international law and charters and to entrench the bases of the legitimacy without which nations cannot live in security and tranquility. Without this legitimacy, nations cannot devote themselves to build their intrinsic potentials in an atmosphere in which the spirit of accord, understanding, and mutual interest prevails.

In this regard, we would like to point out that the GCC states have requested the sultanate to draw up a strategic security plan for the region's states, and that the sultanate has performed its duty in this regard. However, the region's states have to define the framework that better suits their capabilities. On this glorious national occasion, we are pleased to repeat our sincere congratulations to the fraternal State of Kuwait—leadership and people—on the return of matters to normal, beseeching Almighty God to extend His help to them and to grant them success in advancing Kuwait to play its role both in the regional and international arenas. [applause]

O citizens, the international arena witnessed major changes this year as well as tangible efforts to solve chronic issues and difficult problems, which have given the world sleepless nights for a long time and endangered security and peace. We support these efforts and call for bolstering them to put an end to the suffering of many nations, which wish to see a new dawn of peace and stability. [applause]

We have always called for settling the Middle East issue in order to achieve comprehensive and just peace for all parties. proceeding from this basis, we welcome the peace conference that was opened in Madrid to deal with this issue. [applause] We also consider it an important step toward reinforcing security, entrenching stability in this troubled region, and providing a better life for its peoples, especially the fraternal Palestinian people, who have suffered from occupation over the past half century. We also hope that this conference will be able to achieve the desired goals, establish a lasting and just peace for the region's states, regain the militant Palestinian people's rights, guarantee them honorable life on their national soil, and allow them to devote their energies to reconstruct and develop it.

We seize this opportunity to hail the U.S. and Soviet roles and efforts to bring about security and stability in this strategic part of the world. we also praise the EC's role in supporting these efforts. The world is witnessing radical changes in all areas. This asserts that the nineties is the beginning of a new world order, which we hope will not allow conflict or confrontation but which will promote cooperation, understanding, and peace. We repeat

our congratulations to you and our appreciation for all the good efforts being exerted for the sake of this dear homeland, and we beseech Almighty God to guide our steps and grant us success in our action as well as His blessings in this holy land. God heeds our calls. Peace be upon you. [applause]

Saudi Arabia

Prince Bandar's Talks With U.S. Jews Defended

LD2011222291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2050 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Nov (SPA)—An authoritative source made the following statement to SPA today:

A number of Arab and Western information organs reported during the last two days, in a bid to create excitement, the news of the meeting in New York between Saudi Arabian Ambassador His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the leaders of the American Jewish Congress, and then with the leaders of the American Jewish Organizations.

The source added:

We do not understand what is so strange about His Highness Prince Bandar meeting with important personalities who have weight and influence, and who might be able to convince the Israeli Government to freeze the building of settlements in occupied Arab territories, to go ahead with the peace negotiations in order to guarantee the Palestinian people's rights, and to implement the principle of trading land for peace in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, a matter which all international bodies have been calling for.

The source continued: His Royal Highness Prince Bandar-Bin Sultan, who has contributed with his intensive efforts during meetings between Arab delegations with the Israeli delegation during the international peace conference, has but continued these efforts within areas of influence. This falls within the framework of the goals desired by the Arab nation in order to establish a just and comprehensive peace that would safeguard the rights of the Palestinian people and protect the dignity of the Arab nation.

The source concluded his statement by saying: While we express our great surprise at this fabricated media clamor that serve known objectives, we appeal to all sincere and objective pens to be a constructive instrument and harbinger of peace, rather than being destructive elements and an obstruction to endeavors and efforts.

HA'ARETZ: Bandar To Maintain Ties

TA2111120991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Nov 91 p A1

[By Gay Bekhor]

[Text] Saudi diplomats in Washington confirmed yesterday to HA'ARETZ that Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, Saudi ambassador in Washington, will continue to meet with U.S. Jewish leaders, especially in light of the success of the public meeting at New York's Waldorf-Astoria earlier this week.

The diplomats reported that the prince will thereby maintain, on the king's behalf, a channel of communications not only with the Jewish community but also with the Israeli Government, which is in close touch with U.S. Jewry.

Arab sources in Washington disclosed to HA'ARETZ that this was not the first time that Bandar had met with the Jewish leadership and that he has had at least 10 secret meetings with them, mostly in Washington. Some of the meetings were held at the ambassador's home, and the Israeli Government was given a report by the Jewish participants, although maintaining total secrecy.

The Saudi press attache in Washington, Habib Shahin, told HA'ARETZ yesterday that according to the prince's report, his talk with the Jews was "friendly and constructive" and that Bandar expressed satisfaction with it, but refused to go beyond that.

Fahd Chairs Cabinet Session on Oil, Other Issues

LD1811220491 Riyadh SPA in English 1924 GMT 18 Nov

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 18, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who chaired a regular session of the Council of Ministers at al-Salam palace here this afternoon, briefed the council on latest and important issues on the Arab arena with an assessment on the current Arab and international developments.

In the framework of the constant concern of the Kingdom over Islamic affairs, namely the Afghan cause, Information Minister 'ali al-Sha'ir said the council has expressed optimism over contents of a joint communique issued after a recent visit of an Afghan delegation to the Soviet Union and noted that it was a positive step towards the targeted resolution of the just and legitimate cause of the Afghan mojahedin.

Al-Sha'ir told the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY that the council also reviewed a number of domestic issues on its agenda including an explanation by the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Hisham Nazir that the Kingdom, through its projects in the U.S. and Korea, has guaranteed vital markets.

Nazir assured the cabinet that the oil markets and international companies have absolute trust in dealings with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—thanks to the credibility and the tremendous weight being enjoyed by the Kingdom in international markets.

"The Kingdom does not enter into a joint project unless it is based on accurate feasibility and at present, the Kingdom, is studying some new projects in Europe," Nazir said.

The cabinet discussed a number of educational items and referred them to the cabinet's general committee for completion of the necessary study and its re-submission to the cabinet during its next session, al-Sha'ir said.

It reviewed also a number of domestic matters and issued the following instructions:

—Endorsement of legal accountants regulation with an enclosed formula and preparation of a royal decree on the matter.

—Appointment of Ibrahim Bin Muhammad 'Ali al-Mousali and 'Abdallah Bin 'Abd al-Rahman Bakr Alim as ambassadors at grade 15.

—Approval of other appointments with grade 14 at the Foreign Ministry.

SPA Reports al-Shar' Praise for King Fahd

LD2111223391 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Al-Dammam, 20 Nov (SPA)—His Excellency Mr. Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister, has praised the role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under of the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodion of the two holy mosques, in bringing Arab viewpoints closer and in urging the Arab states to respond to the voice of peace and reason. He also hailed the Kingdom's support for Arab causes in all international and Islamic forums. In a news statement published today, al-Shar' pointed out the role played by the Kingdom and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in supporting the Arab negotiator at the Madrid peace conference, in bringing viewpoints closer, and in coordinating the Arab positions for the recovery of the occupied territories and the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Minister al-Shar' added that, despite Israel's obstinacy, his country is proceeding with the peace efforts in order to expose to the entire world who is rejecting peace. He went on to say: "Syria is not setting any conditions, and all it is demanding is the implementation of the international resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and an end to the building of settlements and the swallowing up of Arab lands."

King Fahd Receives Somali Prime Minister 19 Nov

LD2011105591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2138 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 19 Nov (SPA)—At the royal office in the al-Salam Palace this evening, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received His Excellency Omar Arteh Ghalib, prime minister of the Republic of Somalia, and the delegation accompanying him. [passage omitted]

Yemen

House Criticizes Knesset Golan Heights Decision

JN1611205191 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Text] The House of Representatives Foreign Relations and Expatriates Affairs Committee has denounced the Knesset decision deeming the occupied Syrian Golan Heights to be Israeli territory not subject to negotiation. In a statement released today, the committee expressed its denunciation and absolute rejection of the illegitimate decision. Coupled with the continued building of settlements on occupied Arab land, the Golan Heights decision points to an attempt by the Zionist entity to place obstacles in the path of the peace process in the region, as well as conclusive evidence of the Israeli enemy's designs on all of the occupied Arab territory. Such actions by the Zionists are an indication of their aggressive, terrorist line that runs counter to international peace initiatives and resolutions calling for total and unconditional withdrawal from occupied Arab territory.

The committee asserted that the Yemeni people stand by the Syrian, Palestinian, Lebanese, and other Arab peoples seeking the retrieval of all of their stolen territory, above all, holy Jerusalem. It urged parliaments and parliamentary bodies in Arab and Islamic nations and all brotherly and friendly states to adopt clear positions on this decision. The Zionist enemy must bear all of the negative repercussions generated by this decision on the peace process, sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union, said the statement.

Foreign Ministry Source Comments

JN1511112291 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Nov 91

[Text] A responsible Foreign Ministry source has voiced the Republic of Yemen's denunciation of the Israeli Knesset's decision to consider the Syrian Golan Heights as Israeli territory. The source said the decision contradicts UN resolutions and provides conclusive evidence of the Zionist enemy's premeditated intentions toward all the occupied Arab territories, where the enemy government continues to build settlements. This, the source said, constitutes another obstacle along the path of the

peace talks cosponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union, and its consequences will be borne by the Zionist enemy.

Official Press Told To Ignore Saudi Media

JN1711131291 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Nov 91

[Text] The Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers resumed their joint meeting this morning under Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. The Councils listened to brother attendees' views and observations regarding the paper presented by the Council of Ministers on the orientations governing the preparation of the state and general institutions budgets for 1992. They also discussed the economic and supply situation and ways to improve living conditions, stabilize the prices of basic commodities, and to find effective mechanisms for tackling the economic situation, improving performance, promoting various economic activities to improve our national economy, pushing forward the wheel of production and to serve the objectives of development.

The joint meeting of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers discussed the deterioration in Yemeni-Saudi relations—a deterioration which does not serve the interests of the fraternal Yemeni and Saudi relations, and which resulted from the exchange of media campaigns through papers and magazines published in both countries. The joint meeting decided to instruct the official papers and the papers affiliated with the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Socialist Party not to respond to any Saudi media reports as of Tuesday, 19 November.

The joint meeting hoped that other papers published in the country will abide by this decision, whether representing parties or individuals, out of concern for the homeland's supreme interests and to prove the good will of all Yemenis toward their brothers and neighbors.

The joint meeting also hoped that all papers would stop publishing any false or deceptive news which would harm the national interests, stop exchanging slander, and adhere to the letter and spirit of the press law, stemming from the principle that respect for laws and abidance by their stipulations constitute the core of genuine and sound democracy.

Saudi Oppositionists Criticize Kingdom

JN1811124891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Text] Sanaa, 18 Nov (INA)—The Saudi national opposition forces have described the current situation in the country as a transformation into foreign protectorates.

In a news report published today, the Yemeni newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Saudi regime has placed the Arab oil resources under colonialist control, and that the opposition campaign against this regime has recently intensified, especially following the Gulf events.

The paper quotes political observers as saying that the Saudi regime has fallen between the jaws of the opposition, which is demanding that the regime take serious steps to bring it into the present age and modern systems by modernizing parliamentary establishments and allowing the press free expression.

The paper adds that religious men, along with tribal and traditional forces, are launching a large campaign against the regime, which allowed foreigners to enter the holy lands. They are also criticizing symbols of the ruling family in view of the moral degeneration which has become the talk of the foreign press.

'Aziz Suspects UN Guards 'Gathering Intelligence'

JN2111203391 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The Iraqi Government told a visiting United Nations envoy, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, that it suspects United Nations guards in the country may be gathering intelligence.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz raised his doubts about the work of the 500 guards in four hours of talks with the United Nations envoy.

'Aziz told Prince Sadruddin, who is overseeing the United Nations relief operations in the region, that Baghdad was suspicious of work being carried out by the United Nations guards. The guards were sent to Iraq to protect the UN personnel involved in a post-Gulf war relief effort.

Al-Dlaym Tribesmen Removed From Military Posts

NC2111162091 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1410 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Defeated Saddam has begun to sack members of the al-Dlaym tribe, particularly from military posts, as a result of his fears regarding members of our conscientious tribes.

Following the recent uprising by the al-Dlaym tribe and their support for al-Jubur and [name indistinct] tribes in Mosul, foolish Saddam ecently removed more than 800 military officers, who are members of the al-Dlaym tribe, from their military posts. In addition, he ordered the arrest of a large number of them, particularly those with experience, scientific qualifications, and political influence. Salah Sulayman al-Dlaym, Saddam's adviser for planning, was among those arrested. He was later killed during confrontations that took place in the Ba'thists Saddamite palace [as heard] last month.

The al-Dlaym tribe is based in al-Ramadi City. Members of this tribe resisted 'Aflaqite domination as well as reckless Saddam's recent attacks against our tribes in the north and the south.

'Text' of Statement for Surrendering Weapons

JN2211103291 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 20 Nov 91 p 2

["Text" of statement issued by the Interior Ministry in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] Interior Ministry Statement:

1. With the Presidential Office's consent, it has been decided to reopen the centers for receiving weapons and ammunition from citizens who found these weapons and ammunition, or who obtained them in any way, as of Saturday, 23 November, for two nonextendable weeks.

2. These centers will pay for the weapons and ammunition in accordance with the fixed prices stipulated in the government general orders. It should be noted that some kinds of weapons and ammunition will be received without compensation.

3. Those who will deliver all types of weapons and ammunition within this period will be free from any legal action stipulated in the law on arms, the law on the possession of state money, or any other law.

4. After the passage of the two weeks mentioned in Paragraph 1, the competent authorities will carry out comprehensive and thorough search campaigns. Anyone found in possession of any type of weapon or ammunition will be subject to legal questioning.

Therefore, we urge all citizens, who have in their possession any type of weapon or ammunition, to deliver them to these centers within the legal period. Violators will be punished. All competent departments in the government should facilitate these measures to receive citizens and what they have in their possession, and to pay the prices of the weapons and ammunition, in accordance with the fixed government prices.

Success comes from God.

Minister of Interior Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan.

Opposition Reports Success in Antiregime Attacks

NC2111155691 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1410 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Groups of the popular uprising, in response to criminal acts and to foil Saddam's attempts to prevent the escalation of our courageous revolutionaries' operations, continue to confront and inflict heavy damages upon the 'Aflaqites. Groups of revolutionary youngsters in the past few days have carried out heroic attacks against the humiliated Saddamite remnants in (?Keramlais), killing several of Saddam's henchmen, wounding a number of others, destroying a number of vehicles and weapons, and sinking a number of boats.

The revolutionary uprising against the Saddamite presence in the rebellious city of Khanaqin has continued unabated, particularly in the past few days, after Saddam's henchmen detained 500 youngsters from this region and took them to undisclosed locations.

Kurds To Put Agreement With Regime to Referendum

NC2111184291 Paris AFP in English 1658 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Ankara, Nov 21 (AFP)—Leaders of Iraqi Kurds, dissatisfied with terms of an agreement offered by Baghdad, will put the text to a referendum among Kurds in Iraq to see whether it should be signed, a Kurdish party represented in the negotiations said Thursday.

"The agreement will be decided upon through a public referendum in the near future," the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said in a statement received by AFP here.

The union, one of eight parties in the Iraqi Kurdistan Front which forged the agreement, said front leaders refused to endorse the proposed agreement because of "Iraqi refusal to introduce any meaningful constitutional and democratic reforms" in Iraq.

They also objected to "Iraqi refusal to include major Kurdish areas" in a proposed Kurdish autonomous region, the statement said.

Another problem was "Iraqi insistence on a range of conditions, by which the Kurdish movement will have to defend the leadership of President Saddam Husayn."

Among these was that "the Kurdish movement will have to be party to the Iraqi struggle against Zionist-imperialist aggression and also fight the neighboring countries of Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria and leaders of Kuwait," the statement said.

Turning to the situation in mainly Kurdish northern Iraq, the union said Baghdad "continues to limit the supply of food into the region." It also said "more than 600,000 refugees remain stranded in the countryside and along the Iraqi-Iranian border."

It accused Baghdad of violating a November 12 agreement, under which Kurdish forces would leave large towns in exchange for Baghdad's lifting an economic embargo against the Kurds. "The Kurdish population of the Markia area (south of Irbil) and of Chamchamal and Kara-Hanjira (on the al-Sulaymaniyah-Kirkuk road) were notified to leave their homes, or be evicted by force," the statement said.

In early October, the residential district of al-Sulaymaniyah was subjected to heavy shelling from Iraqi artillery, leaving 75 civilians killed and 1,000 seriously injured, it added.

Democratic Party of Kurdistan Committee Statement

JN2111174491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1440 GMT 21 Nov 91

["Text" of statement issued following the Democratic Party of Kurdistan Central Committee meeting held on 19-20 November—place not given]

[Text] The Central Committee of our Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] held its ordinary meeting under party leader brother Mas'ud Barzani on 19 and 20 November 1991. During the meeting, it reviewed the general situation inside and outside the country in light of developments in the international situation toward Iraq and the Kurdish issue, and the situation in Iraqi Kurdistan in light of the current situation. The Central Committee also discussed the internal situation of the party on the organizational, military, and media levels, and on the level of relations within the Iraqi Kurdistan Front.

The Central Committee decided that the repercussions of the uprising, the resulting tragedies, the large-scale international sympathy with the Kurdish people and their issues, and the consequent negotiations between the Kurdistan Front's leadership and the central government in Baghdad—all this has put Iraqi Kurdistan in particular, and Iraq in general, on the threshold of a new era of political struggle. The struggle is to achieve the same objectives for which our party has been truthful over scores of years for the sake of freedom and of achieving democracy in Iraq, the true autonomous rule of Iraqi Kurdistan, and the guaranteeing of administrative and cultural rights for religious and ethnic minorities.

The new era, on all levels, has created better circumstances to reach a peaceful solution to the Kurdish issue in a way that would serve the objectives and aspirations of the Iraqi people and the unity of Iraq. The party stresses the need to continue the dialogue to settle the Kurdish issue peacefully, with special emphasis on safeguarding the Iraqi Kurdistan Front and its effective role in the political life of Iraq. The people are undoubtedly following with great interest the march of dialogue and its horizons, and aspire to resolve the unsettled issues and achieve the desired results.

The party reiterated its certain concern for the national and democratic rights of the Kurdish people—the rights on which our party and its eternal leader Barzani have not compromised and will never compromise. Within this framework, the Central Committee meeting attached extraordinary importance to discussing the unstable situation in Iraqi Kurdistan, and the need to maintain peace and stability in it and avoid confrontation with the government forces except in cases of self-defense. Protecting the lives and security of citizens in the cities and complexes is a trust to be shouldered by our party and the other parties in the Kurdistan Front. Based on this, the meeting focused on improving the security conditions of the sons of our people in cities, housing complexes, and rural areas; on guaranteeing the arrival of foodstuffs and fuel to them; and on continuing official and public services to them. Our party will continue to defend the citizens' lives and security and to save them from the effects of social tension, instability, economic blockade, and from other sadistic phenomena which could result from the continuation of the state of fierce chaos in major cities.

The meeting noted that there have regrettably been several violations in the name of some of the committees of the Kurdistan Front and its parties, something that harms the reputation of the Kurdistan Front and weakens its leading role. This also harms the reputation of our just cause, which is a cause of liberation to eliminate injustice, repression, and exploitation.

The meeting stressed the need of improving and developing the Kurdistan Front's action in the service of the interests and aspirations of the people who are basically suffering from the effects of high prices, unemployment, and economic blockade as a result of the general situation in the country, in addition to the effects of the tragedies resulting from deportation, deprivation, and annihilation over the past years.

The meeting decided to develop the party's action on the front's level and to put an end, in cooperation with the other parties to the Kurdistan Front, to smuggling operations, the plundering of private and public property, attacks, and other negative phenomena. Some of this phenomena resulted from the complication of past situations in the country, the exceptional conditions in it, and the futile wars in which it was involved. These phenomena hamper the progress of dialogue in the right direction. However, the negative points, faults, and shortcomings in the work of the Kurdistan Front must not belittle the extreme importance of the existence of political pluralism in Kurdistan and the spread of a form of democratic action among various political parties and forces. This, however, should not at all mean permission for the spread of confusion and chaos, which disturb the security of citizens.

The meeting expressed its full support for the party's democratic approach and its emphasis on opting for elections as a means to tackle issues. This means our party's concern for rejecting the means of violence and terrorism in political issues, and for opting for dialogue and democratic means to settle differences and problems. This helps spread democracy within the Kurdish national movement, the Kurdish community, and its institutions.

The meeting adopted a host of resolutions to develop the party's action in the organizational, political, military, and media fields, and on the level of public relations whether in Kurdistan or on the international level; and to develop the relationship between the party and the citizens.

The meeting expressed appreciation for the humanitarian aid extended to the Kurdish people by world governments and committees, and humanitarian organizations, including the competent UN authorities. These groups continue tc extend aid to the displaced sons of our people, to reconstruct villages, to resettle their original inhabitants, to secure medical services to them, to pave roads, and other aid.

The meeting decided to express thanks and appreciation to all these parties, and to continue to work to gain solidarity and sympathy with our cause, and humanitarian aid for the displaced sons of our people.

[Signed] The Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan in Iraq

[Dated] 20 November 1991

Cable to Saddam From U.S. Colonel Cited

JN2111173491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1319 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Nov (INA)—Leader Pesident Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Colonel James Skono [name as received] from Hawaii, United States, in which he strongly deplored the mass killing of the Iraqi people by the White House and its partners. Mr. Skono says in his cable:

The indiscriminate bombing of Iraqi positions in the south of Iraq and Iraqi towns and the burying alive of Iraqi soldiers by the United States constitute one of the greatest crimes in this world and has been unparalleled since World War II. The Pentagon has intensified the bloodbath against Iraqi soldiers and unarmed civilians in the desert massacre, which is an unforgettable crime that cannot be ignored. The mass killings by the White House and its partners negates their right to demand any conditions under the UN flag.

The cable adds: Bush's imperialist formula during his administration and his new world order of colonialism has boomeranged. When the Bank of Credit and Commerce International fell, the crisis was revealed as a democracy controlled by the CIA and British political parties. What was bought and sold as democracy increasingly depended on employing terrorist and assassination squads to protect U.S. global interests during the war and serve the U.S. global dictatorship.

The U.S. citizen revealed the size of the plot Bush and his administration hatched against Iraq's nuclear capability and described it as another Bush lie.

The United Nations has been used to inspect Iraq, make maps, and take pictures, and give them to U.S. spy organizations. We wonder how many people Bush wants to kill. You cannot kill 18 million to serve your interests in the Gulf.

Bush and his administration are still thirsting for more blood. The U.S. opposition to any move to remove the ban on Iraqi oil exports is an additional attempt to destroy Iraq as a whole.

Agriculture Minister on Activities at FAO Meeting

JN2011190691 Baghdad INA in English 1445 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 20, INA—Iraqi Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh was back home after he had taken part in the ministerial meetings of the Food and Agriculture Organisation [FAO] concluded in Rome, Italy.

The minister told INA that the Iraqi delegation reviewed during the meetings the crimes perpetrated during the American-Atlantic- Zionist aggression on Iraq and the damages it had inflicted on the agricultural sector.

The minister has pointed out that Iraq called on FAO and the world nations to lift the unjust economic embargo imposed on Iraq and allow it importing agricultural requirements such as machines, insecticides and fertilizers.

He has also appealed to the organisation to stand by Iraq to enable Iraqi farmers and peasants to secure food to the Iraqi people out of the FAO's main tasks as are being the security of food and fighting hunger [sentence as received].

The Iraqi minister made it clear that the Iraqi delegation met during its stay in Rome director-general of the organisation and a number of Arab and friendly agriculture ministers who had expressed solidarity with Iraq in its struggle against continuation of the economic blockade imposed on it despite its fulfillment of its obligations stipulated in resolutions of the Security Council.

Assembly Delegation Leaves for Yemen, Jordan

JN2211105791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Nov (INA)—A delegation from the Iraqi National Assembly today left for Sanaa on a several-day visit to Yemen.

In a statement to INA, 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Razzaq, head of the delegation and National Assembly secretary, said the visit is aimed at holding consultations and talks with the brothers in Arab parliaments on Arab issues. The visit also aims at explaining the dimensions of the decision to maintain the unfair blockade against Iraq, and attempts to interfere in its domestic affairs by the United States and its allies under the pretext of the UN Security Council, he added.

'Abd-al-Razzaq said: The delegation will discuss with the brothers in the Yemeni Council of Representatives a number of parliamentary issues of concern to both parliaments. It will also convey the Iraqi people's regards and gratitude to the brothers in Yemen for the courageous Arab stand they took in support of their brothers in Iraq, before and after the 30-state aggression.

The National Assembly secretary stressed that maintaining consultations and meetings among Arab parliamentarians will help in the confrontation against the hostile U.S. and Zionist schemes.

'Abd-al-Razzaq touched upon the U.S. campaign of terror against Libya. He said the campaign seeks to terrorize the Arab world and to further the Americans' suspect schemes.

He also said that while in fraternal Jordan, the National Assembly delegation will hold talks with the Jordanian House of Representatives on ties between the two parliaments and discuss major Arab and international issues.

Shamir—Bush Talk 'Friendly;' No Venue Agreement

TA2211162491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] After his meeting with President Bush in the White House, Prime Minister Shamir said that the discussions about the venue of the talks between Israel and the Arabs will continue. He pointed out that although the United States has invited the parties to talks in Washington in early December, no agreement has yet been reached about the venue. Mr. Shamir said that several questions still need to be clarified.

Replying to a question by our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, the prime minister said that the conversation with President Bush dealt mainly with the peace process. He did not specify whether the settlement issue was raised, but said that that issue, among other territorial issues, will be debated in the bilateral talks. Mr. Shamir added that the conversation with President Bush was held in a friendly atmosphere.

The prime minister flies back to Israel tomorrow night.

Talks Announcement 'Taken as a Slight to Shamir'

TA2211120091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] The next round of talks between Israel and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will take place in Washington on 4 December. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi was informed of this this morning. This afternoon she will receive an official invitation from the U.S. consul in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin Amir recording] Washington is again setting the tone. U.S. Administration representatives informed Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi about 90 minutes ago that the next round of talks between Israel and the Palestinians will take place in Washington on 4 December. Molly Williamson, the U.S. consul in Jerusalem, will hand 'Ashrawi the official invitation in about one hour. Similar invitations will be handed to Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, currently in Moscow, apparently by the U.S. ambassador there.

At the same time, the political activity of the delegation members and their advisers is continuing. Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Dr. Nabil Qassis, and Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir left for Amman this morning, together with another two expert advisers from Jerusalem and Gaza, for a series of consultations, apparently in preparation for tomorrow's talks with the Syrians. A minor incident took place at the Allenby Bridge border point, after Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat demanded that the border terminal authorities allow him and his colleagues to pass through as diplomats, without a search of their belongings. After a brief argument, the belongings of the five were searched, but only after they removed the documents relating to the negotiations and the peace process. These documents were not examined or taken out of their hands.

Elections are under way in Hebron this morning for the regional academics association, which numbers about 2,000 members, and the town is the scene of intensive political activity by the supporters of the two lists which are competing for the association leadership: the national list, which supports the peace process, and the Islamic list, which opposes it. [end recording]

Displeasure is being expressed in Jerusalem about the U.S. announcement that the next round of talks between Israel and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will take place in Washington at the beginning of next month. Our correspondent Arye Golan was told that the announcement about the talks was released before this afternoon's scheduled talk between Prime Minister Shamir and President Bush. For this reason it is taken as a slight to Shamir.

Shamir Address to U.S. Jewish Federations

TA2111202091

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1755 GMT on 21 November interrupts normal programming to broadcast from Baltimore's Convention Center, where Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir begins his address, live in English, to the Council of Jewish Federations. Italicized portions below are superimposed translation by Qol Yisra'el' U.S.-based correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Shamir thanks his audience for the warm reception and the support and solidarity shown Israel in the wake of the Madrid conference. He notes the significance of Jerusalem which, he says, stands *"above any talk or negotiation."* Shamir notes that the Israeli Government relies on the support of Jewish communities throughout the world.

Shamir says that Israel has always advocated direct negotiations with its neighbors, because "we have always believed that only by sitting next to each other, without outside pressures, we could dismantle the wall of hostility between us." Shamir notes that the differences between Israel and its neighbors still remain great, and says that further meetings will be held, after which "we hope the ice will begin to melt." Shamir adds: *"If we are to bring down the wall of hostility, both sides must make great efforts and show the readiness to do so."*

Stating that only the first step toward peace has been made, Shamir says: *"I would like to laud the very important role played by the United States, the U.S. Administration, toward taking this step."* Shamir then says: "Without the untiring efforts of President Bush, Secretary Baker, and many others in the administration, there would have been no direct talks. There were differences and disagreements, but there is one thing about which we shall never differ: Israel must have peace, and it must have security. We know that, and our friends must know that peace without security spells disaster for our state."

After noting various demands that Israel cede territories, Shamir reviews events that preceded the establishment of the State of Israel and that ended with repeated Arab aggression and the subsequent seizure of lands by Israel. Mentioning the return of the Sinai to Egypt, Shamir says: "I am sorry to say that to this day, Egypt has refused to fulfill many normalization agreements concluded 10 years ago and continues to oppose the abolition of the grotesque UN resolution equating Zionism with racism." He says that Israel's experience shows it cannot withdraw from "areas taken in wars of survival," and cannot trust treaties and guarantees.

The Middle East conflict is not about territories, he argues; it is about Israel's existence. Israel, together with the Golan Heights, Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is the size of the state of Maryland. "Another partition of that part of Palestine that is west of the River Jordan will not solve any problem, but again set two communities—Jew and Arab—against each other in a situation of constant friction. That is why we proposed the plan for autonomy at Camp David, which offers the only logical, (?wise) solution—not another partition. There is simply no room for two states in such a small area. I hope our American friends understand this and rally for our support." He stresses that Jewish unity will convince the Arabs to make lasting peace.

Shamir reviews the history of the recent wave of immigration and Israel's goals in this respect, urging the international community to call upon Syria and Yemen to allow their Jews freely and unconditionally to leave. He describes Israeli efforts to bring in and absorb the newcomers from Ethiopia and the USSR, and he calls on the Jewish communities to share in the task of absorbing the immigrants by helping the Israeli economy.

Shamir says that the government is engaged in an active program of privatization to assist in absorbing the immigrants, and adds that the estimated cost of absorbing and integrating 1 million immigrants in five years is over $60 billion. For that, he says, there are three main sources. "First, we must do our own share. The Israeli taxpayer is providing $6 billion a year. For the first time, immigrant absorption is the largest item in our national budget—larger than defense. You, the Jewish communities of the world, provide through the United Jewish Appeal and the Israeli Bonds approximately $1.5 billion a year."

Shamir then says: "The United States has played a significant role in helping us open the gates of the Soviet Union and rescue the Jews of Ethiopia. We felt that this cooperation would be extended to the absorption endeavor. We understand the present economic conditions in the United States and have not requested additional financial aid, or debt forgiveness, or loans from the United States. We requested a guarantee that would enable us to (?get) loans from private banks in this country and Europe." He continues: "I still hope that the decision will be reviewed and we shall receive the cooperation we have requested." He concludes on this subject by saying: "I would like to express our deep appreciation and gratitude to all of you who took part in the effort to secure support for these loan guarantees for Israel. If the effort was not successful, it was certainly not for lack of trying on your part."

Shamir urges the Jewish communities to help reinforce a Jewish sense of identity and to regard Israel as a bridge between Jews. He contrasts the collapse of communism with the development of Jewish settlement in the Middle East: "The Zionist dream is being realized before our eyes." He concludes with a traditional saying in Hebrew: " 'Am Yisra'el Hay" [the Jewish people live on], which is followed by thunderous applause.

Military Sources Confirm Arens Visit to PRC

TA2211113291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Military sources have confirmed that Defense Minister Moshe Arens visited China two weeks ago. The sources say Arens went to China immediately after the Madrid conference.

This week Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Hadas was supposed to visit Beijing. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said, however, the trip was postponed because of preparations for the multilateral talks between Israel and Arab countries.

Labor Party Convention Continues; Peres Speaks

TA2211111191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1012 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Speech by Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres before the party convention in Tel Aviv—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ....I would like to say that we have a red flag, but the bolshevism is in the other parties. [applause] I have been told that we are a divided party. That may be true. There are some parties which hold no internal debate, but have two microphones. [applause] We have one microphone and different voices, as in every serious democracy. Before I move on to my proposals, I would like to make some comments pertinent to the debate, and I do not want anyone to take things personally, even if I become argumentative. I am just expressing my opinion like any other delegate, without any intention of arguing for argument's sake.

What do I find unacceptable? For example, I do not accept this oversharpening of our positions. What for? We have positions, and they are sharp. I do not want—and we are talking about credibility—to have someone come and say: You support this because you want to sharpen your positions. No, I do not want to sharpen my positions. I support this position because I support it. This is enough for me. No sharpening is needed. Nor do I want someone to say: Let us adopt a position so that we do not resemble the Likud or the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement]. This does not interest me. What I really care

about—whether or not it is electorally wise—is the fact that we serve a cause and a people, and not an image. [applause] What kind of credibility is this? Allow me to quote my favorite poet, Natan Alterman. He once wrote about his love, saying: Maybe there are girls more beautiful than her, but no one is as beautiful in her way. I want to see a party that will make people say that no party is as beautiful in its way. That is enough; I do not need prettier ones.

In my opinion, the attempts to claim that everything is unpredictable... [changes thought] True, just like in nature, there are things that are unpredictable, but that does not mean that one should say that everything is unpredictable. Things can be both predictable and unpredictable. If one plants a sapling, one knows that a tree will grow. That is predictable. If a storm destroys everything, this is unpredictable. The fact is that our predictions were right concerning a lot of things: We foresaw the international conference, and I would just like to tell you what Shamir said about it in one sentence. Shamir said that anyone who supports an international conference wants to go back to the 1967 borders. Well, is Shamir going back to the 1967 borders? What kind of international conference were we talking about then? We were talking about an international opening to direct negotiations—and I am quoting from what I said in the prime minister's bureau on 12 February 1987—between the parties that would follow. The international conference will not impose a solution nor will it be able to annul agreements made between the parties. The negotiations will not take place within the framework of the international conference, but in direct talks—bilateral, geographical committees: Jordanian-Palestinian and Israeli; Syrian and Israeli—each committee separately.

What has changed now? It is exactly the same. We spoke of one meeting, an international opening session, a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. When Yitzhaq Rabin and I saw that Jordan was backing out of the move, we came and proposed that there only be a Palestinian delegation on the eve of the elections. We said that we were willing to hold elections if necessary. Incidentally, completely free elections were held in 1976, while I was defense minister. We saw things and witnessed developments. I am not saying all this in order to brag. I am saying all this because the order of the events and the agenda are still clear today. Everything is written down, and I would like the party's members to address the issue.

What is the proposed agenda? First clause: a discussion of autonomy, which was acceptable to all of us. Then, the agreement stipulates that the autonomy debates can continue for one year. Afterwards, the second clause discusses the permanent arrangements following the autonomy. This stage will start after three years and be concluded after five years. The third clause, which some people consider utopian, is a discussion on the issue of an international [as heard] conference. Now there has been a change in the agenda. It could very well be that the discussion on regional affairs will not come after permanent borders are agreed upon, but between the stages of autonomy and the permanent arrangements.

I would like to speak about the autonomy issue. We must address these issues. Since the autonomy discussions will last one year at the most, what is the harm in freezing settlements for that one year? [applause] After all, if there is no freeze, there will be no discussions. I would like to tell our friends in the Jordan Rift Valley and Golan Heights settlements that they certainly must be strengthened and helped. They are our envoys in those two areas. This is the position of the entire movement, and we shall not ignore it. They are not only envoys of settlement, however; they are also envoys of peace. There is no division between the two. [applause] It is not that they are for the Jordan Rift Valley and we are for peace. We are all for the valley and we are all for peace. Therefore, it is everyone's unanimous opinion that settlements should be frozen for one year.

I would also like to address the public relations aspect. What are we saying all the time: that the Likud is squandering huge sums of money in the territories? What should we propose: that we continue spending the money, but in other areas? Will this be taken seriously? When we have to absorb immigrants, when there is an unemployment problem, when we are talking about a different order of national priorities, why should we not say that new settlements will be halted this year, while we hold negotiations on autonomy? Instead, we shall strengthen the existing settlements and give priority to immigrant absorption, to creating employment, and to developing the Negev and the Galilee. [applause]

I would like to make one more comment on the issue of sovereignty. Fellow members, I have always thought that the Jordan Rift Valley, Gush 'Ezyon, and the Jerusalem vicinity should always remain under Israeli control or sovereignty. The debate on this, however, will only take place in three years. According to the Camp David accords and also according to our own viewpoint, we should not decide to annex these territories today. If we so decide—and I believe that one of the speakers yesterday already made this point—the Likud will prepare a parliamentary ambush for us, just as it did on the matter of the Golan Heights. The Likud will bring forth a proposal and say: Let us now decide the sovereignty of those territories that Labor wants. This will kill the Camp David accords. I would like to add something. Who can guarantee us that after five years, the solution will be sovereignty? Anyone promising us sovereignty also promises the Arabs sovereignty. There may be some way to put off the sovereignty for some time. Why are we in such a rush? Why should we be divided over this today?

My third comment is on the issue of self-determination. I am trying to understand why the Labor delegates seek self-determination for the Palestinians now. Why is this necessary? Had I prepared a position paper on the Palestinian people and been asked whether they could

recognize themselves, I would have said yes. The position paper we are formulating is not about the Palestinian people, however, but about the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. The position paper deals with the solution to this conflict. Two peoples figure in the solution, not one. Therefore, on the matter of this conflict and its solution, we propose that we say that the Palestinians will participate in the determination of their own future. This is only fair. If a people wants to determine itself, it does not require permission from us.

We are not a licensing bureau. I would like to note that we and the Likud are in the same boat. As for all these stories on why people vote for the Likud and not for Labor: The Likud got 48 mandates in 1981 and has since lost eight mandates. Labor received 47 mandates and also lost eight. All these reports about voting trends are totally unfounded. These are the results of an electoral system that gnaws away at large parties and coddles small ones. This is the whole truth. [applause] But I would like to say something in order to conclude the issue of self-determination—and now I am also appealing to the doves. Fellow delegates, almost all the Arab countries without exception do not support a Palestinian state. We also oppose a Palestinian state. Many people regard the term self-determination as going together with the establishment of a Palestinian state. Why do we need this today, when all of us agree that the solution should come within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation? Of course, we can fight over these three issues. These are the three relevant issues, and we must provide a political answer to them. Today I am saying—and maybe my being prescient is a disadvantage—that we must provide a political answer on whether or not we want to implement autonomy. If we do want to implement autonomy, is it possible to continue setting up settlements? I say that it is not. I also say that after utopia comes to town—and this does not depend on the Messiah, but on a messenger named Baker—there will be a discussion on the future of the region. When holding a discussion on the region's economic future, the water issue, the refugee problem, disarmament—and there are some very complex problems there—and a common market and economy with the greatest nations on earth, why are we in this convention getting bogged down and divided over semantics pertaining to issues that will be dealt with in five years and ignoring the issues that are clearly on the agenda today and that can serve Israel's best interests? [applause]

I would like to appeal to all the delegates. Members, if we accept a territorial compromise between Israel and the Arabs, then why should we not agree to a compromise within our own party? [applause]

Fellow delegates, we have met informally in what is known as the dovish and hawkish camps. I would recite all the names, but I am afraid I would make mistakes and get in trouble with those I fail to mention. But they are really excellent comrades, and they have worked all day and through the night. They almost reached an agreement over the framework for the standing committee. There were several delegates that failed to agree, and I am not reproaching them. They failed to agree between themselves, but we can all reach agreement together. [applause] Let all the delegates agree. If we drop all our reservations, one after the other, this convention will emerge united with uplifted spirits and will win what is known as the whole jackpot. [applause]

I appeal to each and every delegate. Friends, instead of boxing yourselves into your respective corners and arguing over who has the greater wingspan—doves or hawks—let the entire movement achieve a flying victory in this convention. This can be done. I know that we are described as an almost moribund movement. If we are dead, then there must be life after death. I have not yet seen such life. [applause] I tell you again, the past does not matter. What counts is what happens from this moment on. With good intentions, I appeal to the religious delegates who threaten to draw this or that conclusion. The female delegates' demands are justified. Let us find a way to accommodate them. I appeal to the female delegates to permit the religious and traditionalist delegates to remain members of this movement—together. [applause] Let us search for a common path! [applause]

I would also like to tell our partners that if the United Kibbutz Movement believes it should improve its relations with MAPAM [United Workers Movement], then we will take a positive view of this; however, I repeat—and this is a condition—every delegate must now decide for himself whether he wants a united movement or not. Any delegate that wants a united movement must vote to drop all the reservations one after the other—every single last one of them. The standing committee did not manage to reach a compromise. Fellow delegates, the truth of the matter is that the standing committee reached a certain balance, but this is not the same as a compromise. The committee tried to give the Labor Movement a balanced platform suitable to a democratic party with differing viewpoints. Now is the time to vote against internal reservations and divisions and to support a united movement with a unifying equilibrium and embark on the path to victory. [applause]

Convention Resolutions Summarized

TA2211080691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 91 p A3

[By Ilan Shehori: "Convention Resolutions"]

[Text]—Primaries: All Labor Party candidates for prime minister, Knesset faction members, mayors, the Histadrut secretary general, the NA'AMAT [women's organization] secretary general, and labor union secretaries will have to compete for the support of all the party members. Half the list of Knesset candidates will be elected by the 150,000 registered party members. The other half will be elected in regional elections in the party districts.

—Integrity of the electoral process: From now on, candidates running in internal elections will not be allowed to make use of their places of work and workers there in their election campaigns. Contenders will not be allowed to use the telephones, fax machines, or stationary of their places of work to promote themselves. —UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338: Israel will promote the negotiations toward a peace agreement with Jordan and the Palestinians based on compromise. The agreement will have to be based on Israel's security and on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. —National rights: The convention decided to change the clause speaking of the Palestinians' "legitimate rights" to read "national rights." Israel will conclude the negotiations with the authorized and agreed Palestinian representation on the basis of an interim arrangement and the establishment of self-government. —No to the PLO removed: A clause in the previous Labor platform rejecting the possibility of negotiations with the PLO as a terror organization has been removed from the platform this time. —Settlements: No new settlements will be set up and existing settlements will not be expanded, except for the Jerusalem District and the Jordan Rift Valley. Israel will avoid steps and moves that could disrupt the proper conduct of negotiations and will freeze the establishment of new settlements for one year during the negotiations period. —The Golan Heights: Israel considers the Golan Heights a region of great importance for Israel's security, safety, and the safeguarding of its water resources during peacetime as well. Israel's presence and its military and settlement control will remain intact in any peace agreement or security arrangement with Syria. Another clause in this chapter states that the efforts to strengthen existing settlements on the Golan Heights will continue. —Economy: Labor believes in the existence of a competitive, mixed economy made up of the private, public, Histadrut, and government sectors conducted on a business-economic basis, with no discrimination and equal opportunity for all. —Privatization: A government headed by the Labor Party will reduce its involvement in regular business activity as much as possible and will advance the sale of government-owned factories. The purposes of the sales will be: recruiting investment money for economic development and eliminating the presence of political considerations which are foreign to the management of business organizations. —State and religion: The Labor Party believes that the politicalization of religion brought about hatred and moved Jews away from Judaism. Many believe that the representatives of the religious establishment have abused the values of democracy. The independence of religion from the state must be ensured.

Leaders 'Shocked' at Religion Clause

TA2111184491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The Labor convention endorsed a proposal to work toward the separation of state and religion. The party's leaders were shocked by the decision and Shim'on Peres said that he regretted the decision because in his opinion it was wrong.

Peres reported that public and legal ways to change the decision are being sought. However, at the meeting of the convention's presidium, which looked for ways to annul the decision, Knesset Member David Liba'i made it clear that there was no legal way to do so in the course of the party's current convention.

Rabin—Religion Stand 'a Death Sentence'

TA2211070191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin by Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Excerpts] [Einstein] Good morning, Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Einstein] Can you live with a platform, and of course I refer to the political part of the platform, which the political analysts are describing as dovish?

[Rabin] First of all, the central problem which arose yesterday pertains to the decision on the separation of state and religion....

[Einstein, interrupting] We will get to that issue, Mr. Rabin. Now I would like an answer to my question.

[Rabin] Yesterday was a day in which the debate process went awry and things were decided without following the accepted and normal procedures, which were observed on the preceding days. There was no real debate on various issues. As for the political aspect: I believe that Labor's position has become somewhat more flexible. In my opinion, this was done in a way that still permits us to hold the correct positions, even after having to obscure them slightly.

What do I mean? On the one hand, a clause mentioning the Palestinians' national rights was added, while on the other hand, the doves dropped their amendments concerning the Palestinians' right to self-determination. This implies that we are not talking about the right to self-determination. Moreover, the endorsed platform includes a clause that rejects the establishment of a Palestinian state and I am referring to a separate state.

I was sorry that the clause stipulating that negotiations will be held with a delegation composed of residents of the territories without external elements, such as the PLO, was not included. This morning we have already heard that officials from PLO-Tunis want to renew the dialogue with the United States, which could once again shift the weight in the Palestinian political system from the residents of the territories to Tunisia. This would harm the peace process.

[Einstein] So, Mr. Rabin, you now seek to lead a party that is actually leaning toward the left?

[Rabin] Let me tell you what the problem is. I have no problem if these are convention resolutions. After all, this is not the actual platform yet, even though I said before that this seems to be the platform. Nevertheless, it allows me to interpret it as putting the stress on negotiations with a delegation composed of residents of the territories and to say that anyone else is out. [passage omitted]

[Einstein] Let us conclude, Mr. Rabin, with the issue with which you began: yesterday's decision to separate religion and state. I understand that you oppose this decision?

[Rabin] I think that a process developed during the convention in which the central axis did not act as I thought it should. An effort should have been made to formulate party positions that could also enable Labor to score significant achievements in the next elections. The primaries contributed a great deal. I consider this a scandalous decision, however, which contravenes the line taken by all the leaders of the Labor Party and MAPAI [Party of Eretz Yisra'el Workers—forerunner of Labor] in the past. It constitutes a grave mistake and I do not understand how the resolution was adopted. It actually constitutes a death sentence for Labor as an alternative to the ruling party. During yesterday's session Qeysar, Peres, and I decided to act to change this resolution at the next party convention.

[Einstein] Mr. Rabin, at the end of the convention yesterday some people said that Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres rallied the convention following his speech in which he proposed dropping the various camps' reservations. Do you think that this convention was a good springboard for Mr. Peres in his upcoming struggle with you for the party leadership?

[Rabin] Look, what happened yesterday, both with regard to the way in which the political issues were debated and with regard to the decision to separate state and religion, severely harmed the entire Labor Party and its members, with no exceptions.

Religious Parties Enraged at Religion Resolution

TA2211103091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 91 pp A1, 8

[By Ilan Shehori and Shahar Ilan]

[Excerpts] The Labor Party convention yesterday decided to include in its new platform a clause stipulating that state and religion must be separated. Party Chairman Shim'on Peres intends to take action to annul the surprising resolution at the party congress on 26 December. Heads of religious and ultra-Orthodox parties expressed rage and amazement at the resolution, saying that by adopting it, the Labor Party has wiped out its chances to ever set up a government in Israel. [passage omitted]

The reactions of the religious and ultra-Orthodox parties was one of shock and rage. Associates of Rabbi Eli'ezer Menahem Schach, spiritual leader of the Degel Hatora movement, said he is astonished and hurt by the Labor Party decision. His organ, YATED NE'EMAN, writes today that it is now clear how correct it was not to give Labor the power to set up a government. "There is no basis for partnership with this party, because it is antireligious on the inside and cannot be trusted. It is a good thing that it adopted this resolution while in the opposition," the paper says.

Degel Hatora's Avraham Ravitz, deputy construction and housing minister, said last night that in adopting the resolution, Labor has denied itself the option of ever setting up a government in Israel. "Labor has placed Degel Hatora in a position where it has no choice but to set up a government with the Likud alone; it has no other alternative." [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Arye Der'i said: "If anyone had any doubts about Labor's ability to ever assume the leadership of Israel again, yesterday's resolution made it clear that the party has lost the chance of ever regaining power in the future. This is a serious and strange decision, which brutally contradicts the status quo." [passage omitted]

Deputy Minister Yig'al Bibi, who last week headed those who opposed pledging that the National Religious Party will join the Likud in a future coalition, said yesterday: "The Labor resolution is astonishing. This party has a talent for self-destruction. If they have a few friends, they want to forcibly push them away. I am certain that they will change the resolution, but the damage has already been done." Religious Affairs Minister Avner Sciaki said: "Israel is a Jewish state by its very existence. The resolution means that the state will no longer finance religious schools." [passage omitted]

The religious parties found some consolation in Peres' remarks after the vote and expressed their belief that Labor will find a way to back down. "In such an event, an aftertaste will remain which will add to the bitter feelings toward the Labor Party. Peres, on the other hand, will score a lot of points. The Labor Party resolution seems twice as odd in view of the possibility of direct elections for the post of prime minister. In such elections, a Labor candidate could receive many votes from religious people, but the party has in fact told the religious voter that it does not want him," sources in the religious parties said.

[A related report by Orli Azulay-Katz, Bina Barzel, and Tzvi Zinger on pages 1 and 10 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 22 November adds: "Commenting on the Labor resolution, the Likud spokesman said last night: 'This resolution shows that the Labor Party has been taken hostage by its own doves, who have obfuscated the differences between it and the Citizens Rights Movement. In this move and throughout its

conference, Labor moved closer to Shulamit Aloni and 'Oded Zucker and further away from the broad Israeli public.'"]

Lahd Discusses SLA Operations, Prisoner Exchange

TA2111205891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Interview with General Antoine Lahd, commander of South Lebanese Army, by Salman Tawil and Dani Levi on the weekly "Meeting" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Tawil] You have recently intensively shelled some villages north of the security zone. Of course, this is connected to some terrorist operations. Can this be regarded as your new policy, and has it yielded positive results?

[Lahd] The news media reported certain meetings in some countries, such as Iran. As you know, there are pro-Iranian factions. Iran was opposed to a peace conference and wanted to torpedo it. They had no place to operate except in Lebanon. They tried to increase their operations against the South Lebanese Army [SLA] and the Israel Defense Forces [IDF] to foil the peace process, which was launched in Madrid and may continue in another venue. We cannot remain idle in the face of such a situation. We were forced to increase our own activities to prevent terrorist operations. In practice, the result has been very positive, because they have reduced their activities by some 90 percent.

[Levi] Is this new policy being conducted by the SLA rather than the IDF?

[Lahd] Undoubtedly we and the IDF are conducting many operations. There is coordination between us and the IDF. There is coordination in action, because both of us are in the field. We cannot undertake any operation if we do not coordinate. Nevertheless, some of the operations are conducted by the SLA and some by the IDF. [passage omitted]

[Levi] Is there any possibility that a peace agreement can be reached with Lebanon separate from Syria or without Syria?

[Lahd] I believe that it will be very difficult for Lebanon to reach an agreement with the Israeli Government without Syria's consent. That is my personal view. The hands of the Lebanese delegation were tied at the Madrid conference. It was not allowed to say anything. It did not conduct itself as a delegation with the authority to negotiate. [passage omitted]

[Tawil] Do you personally support a complete Israeli withdrawal from the security zone within the framework of a peace treaty?

[Lahd] Within the framework of a peace treaty and with the agreement of the Israeli Government, I definitely want all foreign armies, including the IDF, to withdraw from south Lebanon.

[Tawil] Syria too?

[Lahd] Syria too. All foreign armies that are in Lebanon.

[Tawil] Do you envisage the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the security zone without guaranteeing the future of the SLA? Will you ask to be a partner in any peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon?

[Lahd] Undoubtedly there will be consultation between me and the Israeli authorities in the negotiations. I will express my views in the negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Levi] General Antoine Lahd, there is optimism about the possibility of a prisoner exchange deal. Are you ready to take part in such a deal, and what are your conditions for releasing the detainees in the al-Khiyam prison?

[Lahd] We have taken part. We have released prisoners. We have shown goodwill. They have not freed anyone, nor have we received any information about missing SLA or IDF personnel. We cannot continue releasing prisoners if the other parties do not reciprocate.

[Tawil] But the UN secretary general said yesterday that he is optimistic about the possibility of receiving new information about the Israeli pilot and the possibility of a prisoner exchange. Are you ready to release anyone or at least be a partner in this deal?

[Levi, interrupting] Are you ready to embark on such a deal—that is, a new deal?

[Lahd] I am definitely ready to participate to the utmost in this process if it brings about results for the SLA and the IDF. [passage omitted]

[Tawil] Last question. According to your information, has Fatah recently reduced its activities in the security zone?

[Lahd] Yes, recently the Palestinians as a whole have reduced their activities.

[Tawil] Is that because of the Madrid conference and the peace negotiations?

[Lahd] I don't know what the reasons are. It may be because of the Madrid conference, but their operations were a failure and cost them many casualties. That, too, could have contributed to the suspension of their operations.

[Tawil] And now only Hizballah is in the arena in southern Lebanon?

[Lahd] In principle, the main group operating now is Hizballah.

[Tawil] Thanks to General Antoine Lahd, who came from the security zone despite being busy, and thanks to my colleague Dani Levi.

[Lahd] Thank you.

Mordekhay—Israel 'To Develop' Southern Lebanon

TA2111190391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Statement by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, at the Lebanese border on 21 November—recorded, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the State of Israel will continue to help southern Lebanon in all fields—security, road development, the building and maintenance of schools, sanitation, agriculture—all fields of life. Israel, together with the residents of the south and General Lahd, pledges to do everything to develop the region of southern Lebanon, which was neglected or deliberately ignored by many governments, and to help it progress. This will only be possible, however, under one condition: that there be security and quiet for the region and for all its residents.

Source Notes Concern Over Syria-Iran Cooperation

TA2211113591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 91 p A5

[By military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] "Israel is following developments in Iran, including its renewed military buildup," a senior defense source at the defense establishment told HA'ARETZ.

According to him, there is military cooperation between Syria and Iran, as is evident in their cooperation in supporting Hizballah in Lebanon.

Recently, a large Syrian military delegation went to Iran to train the Iranians in the operation of the dozens of Iraqi planes brought over by Iraqi pilots who defected during the Gulf war.

It was further reported that Israel is worried by the strategic cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi, al-Husayni Investigation Files Closed

TA2211104691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The attorney general will adopt the recommendation that Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni not be put on trial. This is reported by our correspondent Mira Amsalem. Thus, Attorney General Harish will adopt the recommendation by State Attorney Dorit Beinisch. Legal elements admitted to our correspondent that one of the reasons for closing the files against the two is political, mainly due to the peace contacts currently under way. The state attorney's recommendation also relies on a legal consideration, the gist of which is the existence of little admissible evidence against Hanan 'Ashrawi. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Detain Palestinian Council Member

TA2111185591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The security forces today detained Dr. Fathi al-Hajj from Khan Yunus for security reasons. The authorities had banned Dr. Fathi al-Hajj from leaving the country for Madrid to participate in the advisory council to the Palestinian negotiating delegation because of hostile activities on behalf of Fatah.

Leftist Parties Congratulate Ghali on UN Post

TA2211163591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] The Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy have congratulated Butrus Ghali on his election as UN secretary general. These factions hope that early in his new career, Ghali will take action to repeal the vicious resolution equating Zionism with racism. Egypt expressed satisfaction with Ghali's election.

Transportation Minister Invited to Moscow

TA2211141691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 91 p A7

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav has been invited to visit the USSR to sign a flight agreement. The minister may go there as early as December.

The invitation from his counterpart [as published], Boris Panyukov, was given to him personally by Boris Likhachev, Soviet deputy minister of civil aviation [title as published], who last week ended a visit in Israel as the guest of businessmen Ya'aqov Nimrodi and Menahem Laufer.

The deputy minister expressed his hope to see the Israeli minister in Moscow "very soon," perhaps next month.

Likhachev leveled indirect criticism at the Jewish Agency for placing obstacles in the path of the Soviet airline Alak [as published], which he and the two Israeli businessmen own.

At the same time, the Soviet deputy minister expressed his optimism about the development of the air link between Israel and the USSR, including flights for immigrants to Israel from new locations.

According to Likhachev, despite the Moscow-based Alak's current problems in operating flights for immigrants, he is determined to continue operating the company with his Israeli partners.

According to him, there is no conflict of interest between his two positions: a senior government official and a partner in a private airline. Likhachev denied reports alleging that Minister Panyukov's position is in danger and that he has been arrested on suspicion of corruption.

As for the expected visit by Minister Qatzav, the deputy minister said: "Qatzav is a man who understands the aviation business. I am always glad to deal with him on such issues."

King's Letter of Designation to Bin-Shakir

JN2111134691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Letter of designation from King Husayn to al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir dated 21 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, may God protect you: I send you sincere Hashemite greetings coupled with deep confidence, earnest love, and great appreciation. All along, you have been the noble brother who accompanied us constantly throughout the long years of responsibility, through thick and thin. You have been a sincere helper in all the public tasks we have assigned you, and a dear friend who has never hesitated to make efforts and sacrifices. And you have been a supporter of the country, a righteous son of the Jordanian people, and a worker for the sake of your Arab nation, in whose future you have confidence and faith. You have truly been a genuine Hashemite in mind, conscience, and acts. This is how Zayd Bin-Shakir was, a faithful and trustworthy comrade in arms of 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn; may God have mercy on both of them, and grant them paradise.

Following the resignation of Tahir al-Masri's government; against the backdrop of our long joint march; in view of the shrewdness, ability, sincerity, and honesty we have known in you; and in light of your farsightedness and knowledge of the concerns and ambitions of the state and the current regional and international transformations and the surprises and developments they entail, we are pleased to designate you to form and head the new government at this particular period, when Jordan finds itself facing a host of unprecedented national, regional, and international challenges.

You assumed the responsibility of heading a government in previous difficult circumstances. You were faithful and capable: You straightened the course and placed Jordanian society, as we wanted it, at the doors of the resumption of democratic life, when your government held general parliamentary elections that were an example of freedom and integrity. The two governments that succeeded yours acted in accordance with the democratic method. However, things were not easy and smooth. Some frictions [ihtiqanat] between the legislative and executive authorities emerged, and some serious excesses along the line that separates them appeared. As indicated by most of their features, these excesses were due to the receding of the familiar democratic norms in the minds of those who practiced them as a result of the long break in practice. This reflected on the management of the state's affairs and on the magnitude and quality of achievements by its institutions.

Proceeding from this, and in order to correct things in terms of deepening the democratic march, upgrading the performance of the state, and realizing the national objectives of the stage, we stress the following objectives and foundations.

On the domestic level:

1. Strengthening the foundations of national unity in all its shapes and forms. This is the definite guarantee for the state's security and strength and one of the pillars of progress and development in the state. All Jordanians, men and women alike, are equal before the law, irrespective of their origins, roots, affiliation, race, religion, color, or schools of thought. All Jordanians are also partners to development and privileges. Perhaps the most prominent requirement for the consolidation of national unity is the rule of law, the entrenchment of democratic practice, the balance between the development of regions, and intolerance toward anyone trying to tamper with the cohesion of our national fabric, whether by actions, words, slogans, or decisions. This is achieved through the enforcement of the law.

2. Working to protect and boost stability in all its dimensions. Stability is not confined to security, economic, and social dimensions, but goes beyond that to involve the relationship between the executive and legislative authorities so that all parts of the state apparatus can work harmoniously and systematically. Achieving this dimension of stability is the joint responsibility of the two authorities, and without it, the level of performance in the state declines, the normal work of the state's institutions is disturbed, and the implementation of the national agendas is confused. This negatively affects the conditions of society and the interests of the citizens. A salient feature of the unstable relationship between the executive and legislative authorities was the formation of three governments in two years and the introduction of several reshuffles in the previous two governments. I do not need to reaffirm the importance of separation of authorities pursuant to the Constitution; the fact that the relationship between the executive and legislative authorities is one of integration and cooperation, not of contention, disturbance, and obstruction; and that the two authorities engage in debate and act to serve the nation and achieve the interests of the homeland.

3. The Armed Forces and the various security organs are the homeland's shield and its vigilant eye, as well as one of the most important pillars of stability and development. While supporting, developing, and taking care of them is a national duty, keeping them removed from the political game is a joint national responsibility emphasized by the National Charter and proven to be correct by our Jordanian experiment. Undoubtedly such facts are not absent from your mind, especially since you are the son of the Arab Legion, the Jordanian Armed Forces.

4. Work must continue toward achieving democratic life and toward attaining a political pluralism, the framework of which has been organized by the National Charter. This means giving priority to the necessary

legislation—such as the law on the licensing of political parties, which are Jordanian in origin and loyalty, and the law on the press and publications—in accordance with the principles of the Constitution and based on the principles of the National Charter and the supreme interests of the state. This also means, as our experiment has shown, the importance of stressing that democracy is a public approach and a way of life that requires deepening and solidification. It is a way of life that necessitates enlightening the people on their rules and responsibilities, whether through the mass media or the various educational institutions, in order to strengthen proper traditions both within and outside of Parliament. The general climate cannot become genuinely democratic unless citizens are free from fear under the rule of law.

No one can claim to be committed to democracy as long as he moves behind the scenes or practices intellectual terrorism through leaflets, letters, or the telephone. Anyone who commits such acts will be deviating from democracy and the rules of the National Charter. Such people will eventually be exposed in terms of their true nature, which is opposed to the people's choice and their democratic march, and will be taken to task in accordance with the provisions of the law.

5. Under democracy, the national responsibility of the media and various guidance establishments increases. Information and guidance material, therefore, should be based on reason and knowledge. The media should be guided by the supreme national interest, in the same way that the media and guidance establishments in countries with deep-rooted traditions of democracy are guided, countries whose people can distinguish between anarchy resulting from irresponsible freedom and freedom that is characterized by a sense of responsibility.

6. Proceeding with the program of economic reform after things have begun to move, albeit slowly, toward removing the sharp results of the Gulf crisis. The major priority, perhaps, is the continuation of serious and concentrated work to deal with the internal and external imbalance in our national economy, providing a suitable atmosphere to draw investors and capital from abroad, increasing savings, energizing production, looking for new markets for exports and for the Jordanian work force, resuming economic growth and activating an integrated social development process, tackling the pockets of poverty, developing human resources through aiding the means of rehabilitation and training, concentrating on the services economy—such as tourism, transportation, consultation, and others—animating the public sector with all available means in order to create new job opportunities that will help us to deal with the aggravated problem of unemployment, working out suitable agricultural plans, and directing efforts to ensure wider and deeper agricultural guidance and protection against blights.

7. Jordan, which imports most of its energy requirements and suffers from an escalating shortage of water, is in need of a two- pronged policy. The first thing is to intensify the search and exploration for sources of energy and water and then developing what is available. The second aspect is to adopt a clear policy to preserve energy and water, to rationalize their consumption, and to formulate broad and detailed national plans for this purpose.

8. Streamlining bureaucracy in scientific bases and adopting a serious policy to achieve that end by accommodating the available and distinguished qualified personnel, benefiting from the expertise of the Gulf returnees in all spheres, as well as working in accordance with the laws and regulations in force and the principle of equal opportunity. Favoritism must also be removed, given its increasing prominence which accompanied a heated domestic political contest under the umbrella of democracy. Successful bureaucratic performance can be achieved only through a proficient and stable bureaucracy that is chosen according to firm scientific criteria. It is no secret to you that continuous, hasty, and instantaneous changes of bureaucratic echelons confuse the bureaucratic process, harm citizens' interests, and impede the implementation of government programs.

On the Arab level:

The tensions that affected Arab relations because of the Gulf crisis have not influenced the firm determination and convictions of Jordan, which has always lived for its nation and made its permanent slogan the work to achieve concord and cooperation among members of the greater Arab family. We emphasize, therefore, the importance of reactivating dialogue with Arab governments to restore normal relations among Arab states in general—and Jordan and some of its brothers in particular—out of our belief that dialogue and contact can remove misunderstandings and disputes and clarify facts that could dispel the climate of suspicion and doubt and restore confidence, given that it is the chief basis of Arab understanding and collective action. Some fraternal initiatives, like the initiative made by the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through opening its border to Jordanian goods and means of transportation, constitute the beginning of real detente and deserve our thanks and appreciation. Therefore, the policy of quiet dialogue should be pursued, proceeding from our good faith and firm affection for all our brothers and our certainty that reality will be found in the end and that preserving higher Arab interests is the main goal of everybody without exception, given that the Arab nation stands today at a historic juncture created by the collective desire to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully.

On the international level:

The trust, respect, and good reputation that Jordan has earned internationally are a great asset to us that must be safeguarded, developed, and employed to our advantage. This asset is the outcome of Jordan's moderate, balanced policy based on mutual respect, and the fruit of sincere efforts we have made to deepen firm relations of friendship between Jordan and other nations and between us

and many world leaders. Therefore, we must continue to bolster our international relations based on our desire to enlarge the circle of cooperation between us and others, and out of our realization of the growing interdependence of all nations so as to achieve our national interests and assert our regional status. Perhaps one of the most prominent goals that should be taken into consideration is clarifying the reality of Jordan in all its dimensions and requirements.

The peace process:

One of the greatest missions of the government at this stage is to pursue participation in the peace process that began during the tenure of the former government, and to mobilize all efforts and energies to contribute to the success of this process, which is still in its early stages. Success means, in our book, reaching a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace on the basis of the land-for- peace formula, implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—which apply to all occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem—and resolving the Palestine question in all its dimensions on the basis of UN resolutions, in a way to ensure the Palestinian people with their legitimate national rights, including their right to self-determination on their national soil.

On this occasion, we reassert our support for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace process, and express our pride in their noble national mission and their distinguished achievements at the Madrid conference.

You are aware that conducting a successful domestic, Arab, and international policy according to the bases we have outlined will in itself be one of the elements of victory in the arduous peace battle which the homeland must wage with all its capabilities and institutions. We await your recommendation for the names of your colleague ministers. We also express our confidence in you and our full support for you, wishing you success. We pray God to guide our steps and give us inspiration.

[Signed] Your brother al-Husayn

[Dated] Amman, 15 Jumada al-Ula 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 21 November 1991

Zayd Bin-Shakir Replies

JN2111160091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1218 GMT 21 Nov 91

["Text" of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir's reply to King Husayn's letter of designation, dated 21 November; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Your Royal Hashemite Majesty King Husayn, may God protect him: It is an honor for me, having been vested with your royal trust and asked to form a new Jordanian Government, to extend to your majesty my deepest love and allegiance, coupled with my deepest gratitude and noblest sentiments. In your company, Your Majesty, I have been a citizen of this people, who owe allegiance and pride to their leader, and a soldier in the Army, who has always reciprocated your confidence with equal confidence, your love with equal love, and who has shown constant concern for building the homeland and serving the nation.

Hence, I cannot find the right words to express how much I have learned from your majesty, to whom I have been a constant companion, and who has been a teacher on whose wisdom, compassion, humanity, and vision I have drawn.

As my fellow ministers and I take up the responsibility you have tasked us with, we remain mindful of your lofty instructions, unique vision, and great wisdom. This designation comes at a juncture in the history of the homeland when the principles and aims contained in the letter of designation will remain a beacon for us, as we strive to consolidate our democratic march, and as we face the challenge of peace with absolute confidence in ourselves, in the people, and in the nation.

My first government, Your Majesty, oversaw the resumption of the democratic march in our country, by preparing and holding general elections, the fairness of which was attested to locally, in the Arab world, and beyond. The democratic march must be credited to your instructions, concern, and firm determination that our people be a partner that is aware of their responsibility through their elected representatives. Then came the endorsement of the National Charter, underlining the same concern and determination aimed at completing the democratic edifice and establishing political pluralism on the foundation of commitment to the Constitution and the charter.

As I am honored to carry the trust and discharge the duties of prime minister, I would, Your Majesty, emphasize our abiding resolve to live up to the hope placed in us by your courageous, wise leadership, especially given that our participation in the peace conference and pursuit of a fair settlement to the Palestinian case and the Arab-Israeli conflict will not distract us from fulfilling our domestic duties, especially those related to completing the democratic edifice and establishing political pluralism, and drawing up the legislation required for this major mission, and everything that has to do with our economic and financial concerns and all other related issues. The government, Your Majesty, will make every effort to pursue and intensify efforts in the interest of eliminating the political and economic consequences of the Gulf crisis, and restoring intra-Arab solidarity. We will continue to harbor true love for all our brothers and undoubted concern for the interests of our nation. We sincerely call on our brothers to work together to overcome the consequences of the Gulf crisis and its repercussions for our brotherly relations and our relations

with the world. We will be guided by the royal letter of designation down the road toward all that pleases God and that He wants for us.

My government, Your Majesty, as it assumes responsibility at this critical moment in the history of our homeland, will regard the National Charter as a guide in all spheres and on all fronts. The instructions, wisdom, and experience of your majesty will be our guiding light and the framework to which my colleagues and I will pledge ourselves. I ask Your Majesty to issue the royal decree whereby I will form the government. I pray to God that He keep you and support us as we strive to serve the homeland and the kinfolk under your wise Hashemite leadership.

[Signed] Your faithful servant, Zayd Bin-Shakir

Outgoing Prime Minister's Letter to King

JN2111165291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri's "letter of resignation" to King Husayn, dated 20 November; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. His Majesty King Husayn, may God preserve him. Peace and the blessings of God be upon you. I am honored to extend to your majesty the sincerest feelings of sincerity and loyalty, beseeching God Almighty to preserve you as the leader of the homeland and a support for the Arab nation, and to support and back you as you shoulder the responsibility of building and protecting Jordan and defending the nation's rights and interests at this critical stage in our modern history.

Your Majesty, you have honored me with the trust and responsibility of forming a government after the National Charter won the blessing of the people, signaling a new phase in Jordan's political life and democratic march, and after the Gulf war left deep scars in the Arab nation's solidarity and pan-Arab conscience and negatively affected Jordanian society economically and socially. Through your majesty's noble support, my government sought to implement your royal directives which you conveyed through the royal letter of designation. That letter contained the principles, bases, and objectives which guided the government's policy statement in which the government laid down its plans for addressing the overall issues and difficulties facing Jordan in the current stage, which is rife with Arab, regional, and international developments and changes. Those plans covered legislative, political, social, economic, educational, and cultural fields.

Since the first day it assumed responsibility, my government worked to turn the wheel of change to lead Jordanian society to a comprehensive state of national awakening to respond to the challenges of the present phase and to circumvent many of the residues that hamper progress and curtail the launching of creative energies. My government found that many accumulations must be removed gradually, and that dealing with them requires a high level of awareness, honesty, integrity, and a precise understanding of social and economic changes and the forces that affect progress and change. This also required those seeking reform to begin with themselves and with the institutions they are in charge of in a democratic atmosphere in which there is broad-based participation in decisionmaking, acceptance of constructive criticism and others' views, and reliance on national and pan-Arab principles. Thus, working for institutionalism and methodology and boosting the spirit of modernism became the major guide of this government's actions.

Although a short time has passed between the formation of the government and now, my government sought to create draft laws based on our National Charter, especially in the field of terminating martial law regulations, legalizing party pluralism, consolidating the bases of constitutional freedoms, providing a free climate for the press and publications, entrenching the pillars of the rule and authority of law, laying down the foundations of social justice, stressing Jordan's impregnability and self-sufficiency, and maintaining Jordan's bright image, which is derived from its originality, modernity, national history, and great pride.

Your majesty, my government has exerted every possible effort to entrench the sound democratic course, and exercised it in word and in deed. My government did not raise inapplicable slogans to seek the satisfaction of some people. My government refused to be engaged in one-upmanship and undemocratic practices. My government's basic aim was for the homeland to be permeated with an atmosphere of integrity, tolerance, and reform, that all abide by the letter and spirit of the Constitution and the charter as a course and vision, and that all work in the interest of Jordan, the throne, and democracy, deriving resolve and steadfastness from your distinguished leadership, your people's splendid unity, and Jordan's pan-Arab and historical commitment to the nation's issues. My government was eager to push this commitment to the highest levels of coordination, especially with the Palestinian brethren, in seeking a just, durable, and comprehensive peace. Jordanian-Palestinian relations have reached a distinguished stage based on brotherhood, trust, respect, abidance by the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, and stressing the enforcement of international legitimacy which secures the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem and the Palestinian people's attainment of their right to self-determination on their national soil.

My government responded to the challenges facing Jordan. When the peace process developed, my government confronted its historic responsibilities to protect the homeland's interests and to defend the future of its sons based on its full awareness of the national dimensions of confronting developments in light of Jordan's national and pan-Arab constants, of its commitment to

right and international legitimacy, and of its concern for the clarity of vision, brave decisionmaking, and a deep sense of responsibility, which is the same sense that influenced my government's performance while planning for administrative and economic reforms, for healing the rift in our relations with our Arab brothers, and for an enlightened, open policy toward changes in the world surrounding us.

Your Majesty: Since Jordan has been facing great challenges while pursuing its confident march on the road to the future, and since the bases of democratic action have been landmarks on this road, foremost of which is the establishment of firm relations between the executive and legislative powers that would help carry out the national plans within the framework of the government's legislations and performance, and in light of the circumstances that surrounded the experience of the past months of our political life which our people followed with great interest, I am honored to tender to your majesty the government's resignation to pave the way for another team to assume the trust and responsibility guided by your vision, wisdom, and inspired leadership. We pledge to God to remain your loyal soldiers in the various positions of service for the sake of our dear Jordan. We beseech God to safeguard Jordan, to preserve your majesty, the leader of its march, and to make you enjoy good health. God is always near, ready to answer.

[Signed] Sincerely yours, Tahir al-Masri, Amman, 14 Jumada al- Ula 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 20 November 1991

King Husayn Replies

JN2111163891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1236 GMT 21 Nov 91

[King Husayn's reply to Tahir al-Masri's resignation letter, dated 21 November; read by announcer]

[Text] Dear brother Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, may God preserve him: We send you sincere love and deep appreciation, and beseech God Almighty to preserve you. We seize this opportunity to convey, through you, to all your colleague ministers—those who assumed the responsibilities of serving the people and the homeland—greetings, thanks, and gratitude. Their performance of duty has come at a dear and serious stage when we were building and entrenching our democratic march following the National Congress' approval of the charter, and while we were continuing to confront our economic and financial crisis, and seeking diligently and sincerely to confront all the negative effects of the Gulf crisis. Our choice of you at that stage was an expression of our confidence in your ability to hold the trust and continue to achieve the aspirations and objectives that are dear to us and to our people. In particular, we would like to refer to our determination to lay the foundations of political pluralism, and to proceed from it toward the prospects of an organized political action that is based on our national charter, and without discontinuing the tackling of our economic and financial conditions through carefully planned scientific programs that take into consideration the interests of the homeland and the citizen.

The political efforts that are being exerted concerning the Arab- Israeli conflict and the Palestine question have developed in a sudden manner to gather us with all parties in Madrid earlier than we expected. The peace conference was convened, something which made all our efforts focus on confronting this task and on dealing with it. We would like here to underscore your success in the Jordanian participation in the Madrid conference, and in the best international admiration and appreciation this participation has brought to us.

While we accept the resignation of your government and wish you and all your colleagues, who shared with you the march and exerted, along with you, sincere efforts, we would like to stress to you that you are the subject of love, confidence, appreciation, and pride in all that we have known of you and about you in terms of honesty, gentleness, and good nature, and what has characterized your life of deep concern for public interests. In all positions of public service, you have been qualified to hold trust and preserve it. Through the experience you gained during your assumption of the prime minister's post, through the experience that has prepared you to assume this post, and in your capacity as a member of the House of Representatives, we will continue to see you as an adviser to us on all issues related to the state's march. Through you, our hope in the future is great. May God grant you success, along with all your colleagues. May God help us pursue the march of our homeland on all levels. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother, King Husayn, Amman, 15 Jumada al-Ula 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 21 November 1991

Khalid al-Karaki Appointed Adviser to King

JN2111142191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] A royal decree has been issued appointing His Excellency Dr. Khalid al-Karaki as adviser to his majesty the king.

Head of Joint Chiefs of Staff Accompanies King

JN1511154491 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Nov 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today attended a ceremony held at the Royal Coast Guard Station in al-'Aqaba on the occasion of his majesty's birthday and the inauguration of new boats. The king was received upon arrival by Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Talib, head of the Joint Chiefs of General Staff [ra'is hay'at al-arkan al-'ammah al-mushtarakah]. The king and those present toured an

exhibition of naval equipment which included various sophisticated equipment used by the Royal Coast Guard.

The supreme commander then inaugurated new naval boats, which are considered to be among the most sophisticated and developed vessels. The king inspected the vessels and was briefed on how they are used. The king joined Navy personnel in one of the boats for a short voyage.

The ceremony was attended by the king's sons, their Royal Highnesses Princes 'Abdallah, Faysal, Hamzah, and Hashim; Tahir al- Masri, the prime minister; His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, the king's military adviser; assistants to the head of the Joint Chiefs of General Staff; the commander of the Air Force; the Army inspector general; the commander of the southern military region; senior officials of al-'Aqaba; ranking Armed Forces officers; and a number of other invitees.

Palestinians Address Rally, Meet King

JN1811085091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Nov 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Palestinians are participating in the ongoing Middle East peace process in an attempt to ensure the political rights of the Palestinians in the working of the new world order, Palestinian leaders said Sunday.

"Our participation is a strategic step which is meant to strengthen our position in this new world where all the ground rules have changed," said Faysal al-Husayni, overall head of the Palestinian team to Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Mr. al-Husayni and four Palestinian delegates to the peace talks answered questions at a gathering of over 4,000 several hours after their arrival from the West Bank.

They later attended a meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir and senior officials at the Royal Court.

Addressing the gathering at the Palace of Culture, the delegates said the exposure of the intransigent position of the current Israeli government was one of the main aims of the Palestinian delegation at the Arab-Israeli peace conference which opened in Madrid last month.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq "Shamir was exposed as an opponent of international legitimacy," Mr. al-Husayni told the crowd.

Half a dozen residents of refugee camps in Jordan asked the delegates what the peace process had in store for the 1947-48 refugees.

"We will not forfeit the historical and legal rights of our people," Mr. al-Husayni replied. United Nations Resolution 181—the partition plan for Palestine—and Resolution 194 has forever guaranteed the right of return or compensation for those displaced as a result of the creation of the state of Israel, Mr. al-Husayni told the audience.

The delegates, who included Mamduh al-'Akir, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Samir 'Abdallah and Sami al-Kilani, told the gathering that they would not act contrary to the wishes of the Palestinian people or the Palestinian leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We cannot and will not be allowed by our people to act contrary to their wishes," said Mr. 'Urayqat.

The 14 Palestinian delegates to the peace talks and their seven-member guidance committee spoke to their constituency in the West Bank and Gaza on 30 different occasions last week in order to inform and win approval from the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Opposition in particular from hardline Islamists was evident in questions raised by the partly hostile audience during the Amman meeting.

The main bone of contention between Palestinians who are for and against negotiations with Israel at this stage revolves over the fate of the 2.5 million Palestinian refugees who originate from the Arab territories occupied by Israel in the 1948 war and those who fled the parts of Palestine that became Israel in 1947 and were denied the right to return by the Jewish state.

The right of return, the Palestinian delegates said, will not be a subject for negotiations. "It is a right which we have no intention and no right to forfeit," Mr. al-Husayni said.

"We are going to the 'peace negotiations' because we have suffered beyond our means," Mr. 'Urayqat said.

Mr. 'Urayqat, one of the more outspoken Palestinian delegates, said the Arabs have only the Arab governments to blame for the "weak" position of the Arab delegations in talks with Israel.

As a result of the many political splits in the Arab World the Palestinians and some other Arabs had been left to fend for themselves and have thus been forced to attend the peace negotiations with nothing but "international law" on their side," he said.

The lack of Arab unity will have long-reaching effects, the delegates said.

"What kind of Arab World stays silent while 18 million Iraqis live with the threat of starvation and Jordan and Palestine live under an ongoing economic blockade?" Mr. 'Urayqat asked." There should have been Arab-Arab negotiations before there were Arab-Israeli negotiations, but unfortunately that has not yet happened."

"The Palestinians living under occupation are receiving more medical, educational and economic help from European countries than they are getting from their Arab brothers," Mr. 'Urayqat told the crowd.

The theme that the Palestinians would have secured a better position if there was Arab coordination was underlined by delegate 'Abdallah.

"We are not very satisfied with the level of Arab coordination," Mr. 'Abdallah said.

Lack of Arab cooperation "did not permit us to begin the negotiating process in a better way," he said. "We could have entered the peace talks with better conditions."

Mr. al-Husayni added: "We are in dire need of comprehensive Arab cooperation."

The PLO has asked for the convening of an Arab summit on the peace process, and "until now we see no signs of such a meeting taking place," Mr. 'Urayqat said.

The Palestinians, who have accepted in interim self-rule pending full Palestinian independence in five fears, said there was no wavering from the demand for an independent state.

Bin-Shakir Receives U.S. Central Command Chief

JN2111195091 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] At the Prime Ministry this evening, His Excellency al- Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, prime minister and defense minister, received General Joseph Hoar, commander of the U.S. Central Command. Present at the meeting were Brigadier General Mahmud Hammad, assistant to the chief of staff for operations and training, the U.S. ambassador in Amman, and Gen. Hoar's delegation.

This morning, Gen. Hoar and his delegation called on Field Marshal Fathi Abu-Talib, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in his office at the General Headquarters. They discussed general regional developments and arming and training matters geared to streamlining the Armed Forces. Also present at the meeting were aides to the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the commander of the Royal Air Force, and the U.S. ambassador and U.S. military attache in Amman. The guests listened to a military briefing about the beginnings and development of the Armed Forces with the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in attendance.

U.S. Stand on Libya, Lockerbie Criticized

JN1911090791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Nov 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Terrorists Going Unpunished"]

[Text] The blowing up of the American plane over Scotland three years ago was a terrorist act. Hence, the United States, Britain, and France do not have the right to declare Libya's responsibility for it before submitting a single piece of evidence to corroborate their claim. Likewise, these countries do not have the right to perpetrate hostile actions against Libya in the absence of irrefutable evidence that the Libyan intelligence service was behind the crime. Regardless of all this, the world community has resigned itself to passively following these racist threats as well as the preparations being made by the neocolonialist powers to kill thousands of Libyans, and perhaps impose a blockade on them to deny their children access to bread and milk, just as they have been doing to Iraq.

The bombing of the American plane, if it really was a bombing and not a crash, is like scores of incidents involving other aircraft which are bombed every year. It is a crime and a terrorist act which cannot be viewed as less condemnable than the burying alive of thousands of Iraqi troops by the heroic troops of the United States, a superpower. Similarly, it is no less savage and racist than the attacks mounted against Iraqi troops and civilians while withdrawing from Kuwait, or heading with their vehicles, along with their women and children, to Amman along the Baghdad-Amman road. All of these are terrorist and racist acts. The perpetrators of these acts must be tried, condemned, and taken to task. We do not know why they want to punish the Libyan people for a crime that was not irrefutably confirmed to have been committed by the Libyan intelligence service. Similarly, we wonder why the killers, who occupy leading political and military positions in the United States, France, and Britain, who gave the orders to slay thousands of Iraqi, Kuwaiti, and other Arab civilians, have not been punished. The reference here is to officials who were watching video footage carried via satellite while the slayings were being committed. Being able to watch video footage of the slayings allowed them to cheaply "relish" seeing the bodies of soldiers, civilians, children, and elderly people being burned and mutilated.

Those proved to be responsible for blowing up the American plane must be punished. Likewise, those who previously downed a Syrian civilian plane, another Libyan civilian plane, and a third Iranian civilian plane should be punished. In the same vein, those who are imposing a blockade on an entire people, causing them to starve; suffer sickness, freezing cold, and fear; and become the target of threats while they continue to watch this people's calamitous situation with the eyes, moral depravation, and immense degradation of pirates, must be punished.

Firm U.S. Reply to Israeli 'Crimes' Urged

JN2111105591 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Nov 91 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Washington Bears Double Responsibility"]

[Text] It has become certain that Washington will host the initial Arab-Israeli bilateral talks before the end of this month as a solution to the problem Israel fabricated

in this regard when it insisted on holding the talks in the region's capitals in the hope that Jerusalem would be one of these places. Israel would thus obtain actual Arab recognition of its annexation of the holy city.

Choosing the U.S. capital as a venue for the initial bilateral talks is an acceptable conciliatory measure. This choice, however, requires that the U.S. Administration shoulder a double responsibility represented in removing the serious obstacle Israel has recently placed before the negotiations when it stole extremely important documents from the Islamic court in Jerusalem. It is no secret that the Israeli authorities' storming of the court and confiscation of these documents pose a new challenge to peace and suggest that Israel wants to divest the Arabs of any documents that may be presented when the future of the city is discussed.

In light of these evil intentions and actions, Washington should take a firm position that forces Israel to return the documents it stole before the start of the second stage of Arab-Israeli talks, especially since the start will be in Washington itself. It is obvious that Israel committed its heinous crime at this particular time to suggest that selecting the U.S. capital as a venue for the talks will not give the Arabs any guarantees, and the Islamic court incident proves that!! There is no doubt that this negative sign deserves a firm reply by Washington to emphasize its seriousness in sponsoring the peace process and its determination not to allow Israel to derail it.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Israeli crime is one of the worst examples of organized crime and is no less serious than holding hostages or downing airplanes. Consequently, it would be strange if Washington hosts official Israeli terrorists before they return what they have stolen, and this is the least it can do!! It would also be difficult to be convinced of the feasibility of the talks if the U.S. Administration does not prevent the Israeli terrorists from committing more crimes.

Al-Hirawi Address Marks Independence Day

NC2111204491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Address by President Ilyas al-Hirawi on the eve of Independence Day; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] We mark Independence Day this year fully confident of the entrenchment of the peace process, because there can be no independence without peace.

Once the state stops deteriorating and resurrects its institutions and prepares them for their task of overseeing the state's reconstruction, and after we have imposed complete security and national sovereignty, what remains to be done is the completion of the building process and the enhancement of our strength.

We must express our appreciation to the Army and security services for the reorganization and rehabilitation they have accomplished and for their performance, which reflects their integrity, discipline, and sacrifices for the sake of the homeland and its citizens.

O military men, serve as a moral example, because you are the watchful eye of the state, defending authority and law and protecting independence. You are the sons of Lebanon entrusted with safeguarding the rights and interests of its citizens. We refuse to let your Army be a group of brigades. We want it to be the homeland's Army from all of Lebanon and for all of Lebanon, safeguarding security and freedom for all.

O military men, we will not hesitate to make any decision that will preserve the people's dignity and the homeland's sacred right to sovereignty. You have great tasks ahead of you. In addition to stabilizing security and enforcing state authority in Beirut and the territories, we will all head, in cooperation with the temporary UN troops, to the south and western al-Biqa' to establish peace and legitimacy, restoring splendor to every inch of our soil and returning the vigor and honor of being Lebanese to each citizen there.

O Lebanese, we are not conceited about the achievements that have been made that you know and experience daily because they are part of our ultimate objectives and prove to the world that Lebanon is able to overcome death and is purer than its outside picture. What has been achieved so far only constitutes the beginning of more comprehensive and more profound objectives. These demand further efforts and unity to implement so we can move from retreat to progress.

Because reconstruction is a joint responsibility, it is the right of everyone to be informed of the true situation so that development can begin without illusion. For example, the foreign debt which we inherited and which we must repay—in view of our commitment as a state—totaled $620 million at the end of 1987. It dropped to $387 million by 1991. Internal debt totaled 2.435 trillion Lebanese pounds by October 1991. Revenue from customs in 1989 totaled 2 billion Lebanese pounds and in 1990 totaled 2.2 billion, while revenue from customs by September 1991 totaled 46.232 billion. We expect 20 billion pounds to be collected monthly in the foreseeable future, thanks to consolidated security and the closure of illegal ports. [passage omitted]

Inflation gradually decreased from 487 percent in 1987 to 35 percent in 1991. The state did not stop at working to reduce inflation. It also worked to increase public sector salaries and wages at an average rate of 197 percent between 1990 and 1991. According to the latest law on the increase in salaries and wages, overall state spending in this sector rose from 286 billion Lebanese pounds to 810 billion Lebanese pounds. This means that the increase is 524 billion Lebanese pounds. We also do not forget here the burden of the domestic loan interest due to the difference between expenditure and revenue which is more than 500 billion Lebanese pounds. Thus the overall total of the 1992 budget is around 1.9 trillion Lebanese pounds while revenue is 35.6 percent of this figure. [passage omitted]

We know there is much to embark on and to achieve. But we also know that the situation is not hopeless, regardless of the enormity of the burden. Confidence in our resources is greater if we are sincere in our work and action and if we rally together to consolidate the security and peace process. Evidence of this is that following the restoration of the security situation and the resultant encouragement of the repatriation of capital, the shortage in the balance of payments in 1989 was $300 million but has gone on to achieve a surplus of $645 million in 1991 so far. Herein, we recall the policy of strengthening the Lebanese pound and the state's pledge to compensate the small depositors of faltering banks and to pay for every deposit up to 5 million Lebanese pounds, whether the deposit is in Lebanese or foreign currency. [passage omitted]

O Lebanese. We have before us a dual task: completing the extention of our national sovereignty to the south and launching the process of development and construction. Liberating the south is a sacred duty. There can be no hesitation or concession regarding returning it to state authority. We will not spare any effort to accomplish this national duty. The government has firmly and decisively paved the way for the unconditional implementation of UN Resolution 425 through coordination and solidarity with our Arab brothers and consultations with our friends .

We assure you that Lebanon is not alone. The support it has received gives us confidence and is an incentive to continue our efforts to retrieve every single one of our rights. That is what we felt in our talks in New York, Paris, the Vatican, and Rome and from our constant contacts with all concerned.

Lebanon took part in the peace conference on three bases:

1. Separation of the issue of south Lebanon and the Middle East problem.

2. Commitment to what the Arab countries agree on.
3. Facilitation of any international effort to establish a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region because this peace starts in Lebanon and will have positive results for Lebanon.

We do not accept, under any pretext, being dragged into isolation or being treated separately concerning the liberation of the south. If we are working in cooperation and solidarity with our Arab brothers and are facing such immense difficulties, what would our situation be if we moved in the opposite direction? It is our hope that the south will soon enjoy great progress toward eliminating the daily sufferings of our people and the humiliation of occupation. The shortest way to reach that goal is through uniting the Lebanese into one rank as a state. We are looking toward the south and raising Lebanon's banner high, restoring vitality to independence.

The process of development and construction is not confined to the capital; it includes all the destroyed areas in light of a comprehensive plan that mobilizes all our productive resources and facilitates the move from destruction to prosperity. The response we had during our trips abroad and in our contacts with our Arab brothers, for which we are grateful, must inspire Lebanese businessmen to help consolidate the construction process. [passage omitted]

The battle today is not between war- and peace-mongers; the battle is for a single state through the unity of its officials. It is a state which is unifying all its peoples and areas. It is a state capable of facing challenges and devising solutions for them. It is a state that is honest with its people, our Arab brothers, our Western friends, and with those who helped us cross from tribulation to safety. I here mention in particular my brother President Hafiz al-Asad out of gratitude for his noble sacrifices and contributions that enabled Lebanon to consolidate reconciliation. [passage omitted]

We are looking forward to holding free parliamentary elections as soon as possible. The departments concerned have started to prepare lists of eligible voters and to draw up the law on decentralization and the new law on elections which we want to ensure the consolidation of cohesiveness and real participation from the base to the top.

O Lebanese. Let us all stand and ponder before God, ourselves, and history. Are we all performing our duties? The time has come for us to move from the conflict that destroyed Lebanon to the competition that builds Lebanon within the framework of freedom, democracy, and integration. I did not come from a party to cancel all other parties. I did not come with bloodstained hands. I came to establish the peace process. Peace starts with forgiveness. The cabinet and the Chamber of Deputies agreed on issuing an amnesty law for many crimes committed before 22 March 1991 while exempting some crimes and putting them under the responsibility of the judicial council. The state appeals to everyone to follow our example of rising above the wounds so we can all work together to close the file of the long, lean years and proceed toward the future. As for crimes committed after 22 March, there will be no laxity with their perpetrators. We are now nearing completion of a law that raises punishment to the maximum level so that justice can prevail. Peace has started but it can thrive only under justice. [passage omitted]

Karami Said Threatening To Resign Over Dispute

NC2211093591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0918 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] We have learned that a dispute took place this morning as Prime Minister 'Umar Karami arrived at the military parade [marking Lebanon's Independence Day], which led to a political crisis, news of which later leaked to the media. Prime Minister Karami, speaking before journalists and the parade crowd, threatened to resign.

The news was conveyed to the president. Contacts between ministers and politicians have begun at the residence of Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, who is employing his good offices to resolve the crisis. There is no written resignation so far, and contacts and mediation continue.

Islamic Amal Leader Says Resistance Sole Choice

NC2211075691 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Commenting on the choice between resistance and negotiations, Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn al-Musawi has emphasized that resistance is our sole choice because the Jews want everything without giving anything in return. The Jews' entity will disappear because they are fighting God's designs, which will endure and prevail.

Al-Musawi said that the weapons that will triumph are those that safeguard values but do not defy God's directives. Al-Musawi denounced the Jews' raid on the Shari'a Court in Jerusalem, adding that the United States seeks to control the Muslim Libyan people's oil by accusing them of downing the American plane. The United States is doing this because its budget deficit is too high and oil is the solution, al-Musawi added.

Al-Musawi said: When the Saudi family is calling for halting the intifadah, the Jews commit new massacres against our kinfolk in the south and Palestine. He added that it was during this month that Israeli and French warplanes raided our mujahidin's positions in al- Biqa'. The pure blood of our martyrs will triumph over the sword of the oppressors, God willing, the Islamic Amal leader added.

Al-Musawi urged the state to stop harassing the poor people who do not possess millions of pounds to pay for exemptions from military service. He also asked the state to cut its expenditures on celebrations and parades,

because true independence means we should become culturally, politically, and militarily free from the Zionist occupation.

UNIFIL Requests Army To Leave Tayr Dibbah

NC2111105591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] At its meeting yesterday, the cabinet discussed a request by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] for the withdrawal of the Lebanese Army unit recently deployed in Tayr Dibbah village, situated in UNIFIL's operational area.

The cabinet approved the request in principle to avoid any controversies with UNIFIL, particularly as the latter has several times threatened to withdraw from the areas into which the Lebanese Army enters. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Pullout Approved

NC2111105691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Minister Muhammad Baydun today denied reports that the cabinet has adopted a decision to withdraw the Lebanese Army from Tayr Dibbah. Minister Baydun said the reports run counter to the government's policy, which endeavors to expand the area of Army deployment in the south.

Minister Baydun pointed in this regard to the ongoing exchanges with Arab countries, UN forces, and the Security Council. He said that Israel is trying through its military pressure on the south to distract attention from implementing Resolution 425.

Subsequent Meetings Held

NC2211065691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Several meetings were held between the UN Forces command and the Lebanese Army command yesterday. The two commands discussed the situation in light of the UN Forces command's request that the Army withdraw from Tayr Dibbah, which is located within the UN Forces' operational area.

The Army entered the village in the wake of recent clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Meanwhile, residents of Tayr Dibbah and five nearby villages demonstrated yesterday. The inhabitants demanded the Army deploy in the village and in the UN Forces' operational area.

In other development, the villages of Zibqin, al-Mansuriyah, and Yatar came under bombardment last night.

Israeli Patrol Fired On in South; Area Strafed

NC2111210491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The bombardment of the villages of Zibqin, al-Mansuriyah, and Yatar continues. The shelling of Ja'far left two people wounded and damaged a number of homes.

In other news, an Israeli patrol came under fire between the villages of Rumaysh and 'Ayta al-Sha'f, near the Lebanese-Israeli border, at approximately 2000 this evening. Following the incident, Israeli troops strafed the region using heavy- and medium-caliber machine guns.

Shiite Cleric on Madrid Conference, Water

NC1211171391 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 9 Nov 91 p 7

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, by Nihad Tubalyan—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Tubalyan] In the second phase of the peace conference, bilateral and multilateral talks, the negotiators will tackle some important topics, foremost among which is the region's water. In Lebanon's case, negotiations might involve its own water resources. What is your position on the peace conference as a whole and the issues the negiotiators will tackle?

[Shams-al-Din] Talk about details of issues to be discussed at the peace conference does not concern us because, in principle, our position is a negative one. We have said there are necessities for the Arab regimes, particularly countries neighboring the Zionist entity that usurped Palestine. These necessities arose out of a serious imbalance in the general Arab situation, particularly after events last year following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war, and from regional and international developments resulting from serious and extremely important events in the Soviet Union and East Europe. These badly affected the Arab and Islamic worlds but were ideal for the Zionist movement and the Israeli entity. I do not want to discuss whether these regimes could or could not have resisted the international current that created the so-called Middle East conference in Madrid. We can see these necessities with our own eyes.

[Tubalyan] In the face of these necessities, are there any options?

[Shams-al-Din] There are options available to the Arab nation and, in a larger sphere, to the Islamic nation, which does not suffer the problem of the regimes' necessities. The nation can refuse, protest, and say no in the interest of Arabs and Muslims. We said it twice before and we say it for the third time today: There must be a theory or concept that could balance the regimes'

necessities and the nation's options. Morally and religiously, we believe that no authority in the world can legitimize the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine; all Palestine, not just what is called the occupied territories. Palestine is Arab, Islamic, and Christian. It is Jewish only in that it has some sites sacred for them. Throughout history, Muslims and Christians never objected to Jews worshipping at these sites, the wailing wall, and so forth. There must be an equation balancing the regimes' necessities and the nation's options. The nation's patriotic forces must realize the necessities of the regimes, and the regimes must realize the options of the nation. We regard positively, and as legitimate, all movements and signs of rejection in the Arab and Islamic nations against the Madrid conference. But we strongly recommend that these movements and signs do not lead to collision among the peoples and the regimes or to confrontation among the peoples themselves, Arab or Islamic. If the nation's option, rejecting and protesting, reaches the point of internal crisis it will serve the interests of the Zionist entity, consequently leading to more disunity and division within the Arab and Islamic nations. [passage omittted]

[Tubalyan] Do you suspect that Israel is usurping Lebanese water, and are you concerned about this?

[Shams-al-Din] No doubt we always feared and suspected that the Israelis have been usurping this water. There are two responsibilities, one Lebanese, the other international. Internationally, the culprit and aggressor must not get a prize for its aggression, be it in the form of territories, water, or other priviliges in trade, sea, or air. A suspicion exists, which is the least that can be said. There is also evidence that the Israelis have started to steal this water. We, as a Lebanese state, are not, and cannot claim to be, strong enough to defend Lebanon from Israeli aggressions. We depend on our resistance and on international will, its stand, and resolutions. Under these, Israel is prohibited from stealing Lebanon's water. Since its independence, Lebanon's attitude to its water resources, particularly the al-Litani river and its tributaries, has been marked by negligence or indifference, or both. This situation, which still exists, could put international pressure on us, on the premise that instead of letting our water pour into the sea it must be invested as part of a system covering the entire region. This poses a threat and puts great responsibility on the Lebanese Government, which must immediately control and use all the surface water from its rivers and springs, not wasting it in the sea and giving the international community an excuse to say: Since this water is being wasted anyway, let us put it to the benefit of people who need it. Lebanon's water needs are increasing, for human consumption, irrigation, and industry. As the experts say, it is doubtful whether Lebanon's surface water will meet its needs. Lebanon is now facing difficulties, and its industry and agriculture are faltering. To achieve our objectives and aspirations in development and industry and to accommodate Lebanon's 4 million inhabitants—since, perhaps, our existing resources will barely cover these needs—we may need to tap our underground water. We might need to desalinate seawater in a decade or two. We do not have more water than we need. We have water that we need but, because of Lebanon's circumstances and perhaps because of the shortcomings of previous eras, we do not possess the techniques or the means to meet our needs. Let us differentiate between two things. A person might have more water than he needs, so he might be told: Instead of wasting this water, give it to someone who needs it. Another person has water no more than he needs but cannot use it because he is forbidden to drink. Although he is not using the water now because of certain obstacles, he needs it, and he will need it tomorrow, so he cannot give it away because, if he did, there will be no water left when he can use it. It is important to be alert to this point. The needs of the population, the agricultural, industrial, and human needs of the Lebanese people and those living in Lebanon, must be considered. The needs might be greater than Lebanon's surface water, so it might need to use subterranean water or to desalinate seawater. So it is out of the question under any circumstances to make water the subject of negotiations, be they just or unjust.

[Tubalyan] Do you have concerns that water is being stolen?

[Shams-al-Din] Undoubtedly. We tend to believe rumors that the Israelis have been stealing this water for some time, despite official or international denials. We do not accuse as lying those who deny it, but we doubt they know the truth. [passage omitted]

[Tubalyan] Lebanese officials are talking about al-Litani river water being stolen, but it is al-Hasbani and al-Wazzani river water that is being publicly stolen, and the south does not benefit from these rivers' water. What are your opinion?

[Shams-al-Din] This is one of the shortcomings for which I cannot excuse any of the past eras. This is a flagrant sign of shortcomings which, if admitted, would amount to treason. The new Lebanon must face up to it.

[Tubalyan] Should not the Lebanese negotiator demand al-Hasbani and al-Wazzani water?

[Shams-al-Din] Of course. The ongoing theft of al-Hasbani and al-Wazzani water must be discussed. [passage omitted]

Kidnappers Said in Iran; New Identities Promised

PM2211113391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Nov 91 pp 1, 4

[Amir Tahiri report: "New Identities Await Kidnappers in Tehran"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Hizballah leaders said in Beirut yesterday that Israel is trying to obstruct the release of the Western hostages. In a telephone interview with a Hizballah source yesterday we were told: "We

have fulfilled our part in the deal as agreed with the United Nations, and the other side must make a move."

The "deal" the source refers to is what was reached in August following extensive talks between UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran. Under that agreement all the Western hostages held in Lebanon are to be released in return for Israel's release of some 430 Lebanese detained by Israel and its allies in southern Lebanon. The third element of the "deal" stipulates commitment to providing Israel with information about the fate of seven of its soldiers missing in Lebanon.

Since the deal was agreed, six Western hostages in Lebanon have been released, Tehran has released a U.S. prisoner and allowed him to leave Iran, and Israel has released 69 Shiite prisoners.

The Hizballah source said that, through UN intermediaries, his organization has provided Israel with all the information available to it about those missing and those about whom the organization knows nothing.

It is clear that Hizballah really wants to close the hostage file in order to concentrate on rebuilding its organizations to return to the Lebanese political ring as a real political party.

In another development, reports received from Tehran indicate that six Hizballah elements who participated in kidnapping Terry Waite have arrived in Tehran, where they will be given "new identities and protection." They will be joined by 20 to 30 Lebanese from among those who have been involved in holding the hostages since 1983. Iran had promised to protect them against any retaliatory action Israel or the Western powers might take.

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Leader Rabbani Discusses Moscow Talks

PM2111152891 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Nov 91 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Burhanuddin Rabbani, construction minister and acting foreign minister in the Afghan interim government, by correspondent 'Abdallah al-Haj in Jeddah "yesterday"]

[Excerpt] [Al-Haj] How would you assess the results of your talks with Soviet officials, and do you consider them to be a step toward establishing an Islamic government in Afghanistan?

[Rabbani] These talks are the first dialogue between us and Moscow in the Soviet Union. A statement was issued at the end of the dialogue. The mojahedin delegation presented the various points very openly and firmly and defended its views with strong arguments. The other side realized that it was more realistic than before. We achieved what we could call important results. We made tangible progress. This proves that the Soviet Union has realized that its previous policy toward Afghanistan was erroneous and that it needed to be changed. The points that we settled were useful and were reflected in the joint statement issued after the talks, which was the first statement to condemn the Soviet military intervention and brutal attack on Afghanistan.

We also agreed that all the accords concluded with the government subservient to the Soviet Union, which did not represent the will of the Afghan people, are null and void. This is because those agreements and decisions have no realistic foundation, because they did not represent the Afghan people. And the national transitional government which will follow the fall of the agent government, which enjoys Soviet protection, will look into abolishing these treaties.

Another point was achieved, namely, the Soviet Union's commitment to stop supplying the present government with weapons and military equipment in accordance with the agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union. This is an important point, and we regard it as a response to the efforts to eliminate the causes of the fighting within Afghanistan.

In addition, we agreed to form a committee to follow up the points of agreement until they have been implemented. The most important point within the framework of the Moscow declaration is the agreement on the establishment of a transitional Islamic government in Afghanistan. We also clarified some of the issues which were not clear to them which concerned their occupation of Afghan territory. We emphasized the mojahedin's resolute position, showed them how erroneous the previous Soviet position was, and informed them of our opinion that this stage of talks is positive.

[Al-Haj] Will the negotiations between the two sides resume soon, and will the Soviets compensate you for the destruction inflicted on your country?

[Rabbani] There is agreement on the need to resume them soon after the first round's notable success. With regard to reconstruction, there is a Soviet commitment in this regard, especially because there is an article in the joint statement which stipulates that the destruction caused by the Soviet Union's aggression against Afghanistan compels the side that started the war to contribute to the compensation and to rebuild what it destroyed.

[Al-Haj] What is the response of mojahedin leaders inside the country to the results of your talks in Moscow, and what is the position of Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar?

[Rabbani] We have not heard any new information from the brothers-in-jihad since the statement was issued. I personally believe that the response of the brothers who have their country's interests at heart will be positive. Anyhow, it is now a matter for the brothers, and we await their statements and positions.

[Al-Haj] Will a meeting be held soon with those brothers to discuss the results of the Moscow talks?

[Rabbani] Of course. After our return we will meet with the brothers to discuss these issues and to study whatever affects the interests of the Afghan jihad and realizes our aims of liberating our country from the misfortune that has afflicted it.

[Al-Haj] How would you assess the U.S. Government's position on the efforts to end the Afghan problem?

[Rabbani] The U.S. Government has issued a joint statement in that regard with the Soviet side. We believe that the mojahedin also took a positive step, despite their suffering from the psychological effects of the war and Soviet aggression against them. But they withstood these effects, and we accepted Moscow's invitation because of our desire to achieve a reconciliation in order to regain our territory. We went there to tell the entire world that under these conditions the mojahedin are capable of crushing the Soviet agents in Kabul. But we are serious in working to avoid further bloodshed. We went to Moscow to show that we were ready to talk and that the other side should listen to us. That position was the appreciated by all the parties that want peace to prevail throughout Afghanistan.

[Al-Haj] Do you believe that the Soviets are serious about abandoning Najib?

[Rabbani] We told the Soviets that the changes in their country and their leaders' statements about their dissatisfaction with the previous policies pursued against the Afghan people conflict with the existing situation: adhering to Najib and supplying him with aid. We told them: You must prove your credibility to the world. If you do not, then you are contradicting yourselves. I believe that with that statement the Soviets have shown

the world that they are willing to change the policy that they pursued against us in the past. [passage omitted]

Comments Further on Talks

BK2111102891 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 21 Nov 91 p 10

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 20—The first meeting of the joint commission of Afghan Mojahedin and Soviets will be held in Pakistan soon to implement the joint declaration agreed at between the two parties in Moscow. This was stated by Professor Burhanuddin [Rabbani] while addressing a crowded press conferences here today.

The commission, he said, will be set up within a month to go through the whole declaration which was signed on Nov 15 last.

Referring to the outcome of the bilateral talks between the two sides, Prof. Rabbani termed it as "effective and positive held in frank and cordial atmosphere."

Replying to a query about the Soviet response towards the transfer of power, Prof. Rabbani said that the Soviets had made it clear that they have nothing to do with the time framework for the transfer of power and the type of government in Afghanistan. "It is the choice of the Afghan nation and people", the Soviets stressed. However, he added that they had told Moscow that under no circumstances they would tolerate the present puppet regime at Kabul.

"Besides no one from the Najib government will either participate in the commission or the future talks between the Afghan Mojahedin and the Soviet Union", he added.

To yet another question he replied that the Soviets have no objection on the installation of an Islamic Government in Afghanistan. However, he added that there was no reference in the talks about the installation of a kingdom in Afghanistan.

The declaration, he said, also seeks release of the prisoners of war by both the sides. The Mojahedin have agreed to release first batch of the Soviet prisoners of war by January 1, 1992.

Prof. Rabbani said that during the bilateral talks the positive points of the United Nations secretary-general's five point formula for the settlement of Afghan issue came under discussion. However, he added that the new Mojahedin-Soviets agreement would be the basis of talks in future.

About the next round of talks, he said the place has not yet been finalised. "But if we can go to Moscow then they can also come to inside Afghanistan (liberated areas), for talks," he added.

He said, "those who did not participate in the talks should see the positive outcome of the recent talks and join us in future talks".

"The interests of the Muslim nation should always supercede the personal interests", he added, "the results of the talks might be beyond the expectations of those who opposed their visit to Moscow," he remarked.

Referring to the declaration, he said, "both the sides condemned the illegal intervention of the Soviet forces on Afghanistan which brought unlimited sufferings and tragedy to the people of Afghanistan."

He said, "the two sides agreed upon the necessity of transfer of all state powers in Afghanistan to a transitional Islamic government".

The delegation, he said, expressed the hope that after the transfer of power to a transitional government elections will be held within two years with the cooperation of Organisation of Islamic Conference and United Nations.

The Soviet Union, he said, agreed to cut all its military supplies, ordnance and fuel for military trannsportation to Kabul regime and take radical steps in reducing its military personnel. In this connection, he added, that he had received reports that the Soviet Union has recalled the experts on Scud missiles from Afghanistan. With the cut in aid well before the negative symmetry the collapse of Najib Government would materialise soon, he added.

He said it will be the prerogative of the transitional government to accept or reject all the agreements signed between the USSR and its protected regimes from 1978 till the transfer of the powers to an Islamic transitional government.

It was also agreed upon that the Soviet Union will definitely participate in the joint efforts for the reconstruction of Afhanistan necessitated due to the war.

When asked about the military option Prof. Rabbani said, "we will go on fighting until the end of Najib's rule in Afghanistan. The fighting will stop when Najib leaves," he added.

473 Killed in Salafi-Golboddin Clashes

LD2111150991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Nine bases of the extremist Golboddin group have been captured during the last two weeks by the [Saudi-backed] Salafi groups. According to a BAKHTAR military section report, 450 members of the Golboddin group and 23 Salafis were killed during the clashes, in which both sides used heavy weapons and missiles of various types against each other's bases. Some 300 of the Golboddin group and 44 Salafis were injured. The Salafis also captured more than 100 members of the Golboddin group, including [name indistinct], Enamollah [words indistinct], and three large weapon and ammunition depots, as well as several vehicles. They also blew up a large ammunition and weapons cache belonging to the extremist Golboddin group.

BAKHTAR adds that 800 members of the Golboddin groups have left Pakistan to guard their positions and resist the Salafi attacks. Another 600 in Laghman Province are engaged in clashes with Salafi groups. The Salafis have thrown the corpses of those members of Golboddin's group killed in the clashes and left behind during the retreat into the Konar River and are preventing their [word indistinct] in areas under their control.

Fighting between the two rival groups is presently continuing in the Nur Gol, Kowzh Konar, and [placename indistinct] areas.

Iran Begins Airlifting Food to Bamian Province

BK2211105691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1039 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov 22 (AFP)—Iranian Air Force planes have begun flying relief material to thousands of people suffering starvation in a drought-stricken area of central Afghanistan, government and U.N. officials said here Friday.

President Najibollah's government has given Iran permission to fly several sorties to drop wheat, flour and clothing in Bamian, which is inhabited by Shiite Muslims known in Afghanistan as Hazaras, U.N. sources said.

An official of the U.N. programme for the coordination of humanitarian assistance relating to Afghanistan confirmed the report, and said Iranian Air Force planes had airdropped tonnes of flour across Bamian.

Other sources said Iranian Hercules transporters had begun landing in Bamian Friday, but the reports could not immediately be confirmed.

The mercy flights marked the first known time since the Soviet troop invasion in 1979 that Kabul has agreed to non-Soviet flights entering the country, although the United Nations and the Red Cross operate their own planes.

Each Hercules carried 15 tonnes of relief goods, official sources said, but were unable to say how many may have landed Friday at the narrow airstrip in Bamian usually used by U.N. relief workers.

Reports of the Iranian flights coincided Friday with government appeals for help for the thousands of famine-stricken residents of the central parts of Bamian Province, which are not under government control.

Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaliqyar announced that individuals and institutions could make deposits at Afghanistan's central bank.

The sources said Kabul had agreed after Iran had volunteered the airlift, but that the government of Najibollah had set a condition of no publicity on the mercy missions.

India

State Has Not Made 'Firm' Reactor Offer to Iran

BK2211005291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1740 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 21 (AFP)—India has so far made no firm offer to sell a nuclear research reactor to Iran, of which reports of a possible sale have stirred U.S. concern, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Thursday.

The news agency quoted unnamed official sources as saying that only "preliminary discussions" had been held with Tehran on the sale of the 10-megawatt reactor.

Officials described the negotiations as a "slow process," adding that since a firm offer had not been made, there was no question of withdrawing an offer.

U.S. Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs Reginald Bartholomew arrived here Thursday for talks with Indian officials, and the possible sale was expected to figure prominently in discussions.

Washington has expressed concern at the possibility that Iran, which recently called for Islamic countries to arm themselves with nuclear weapons to counter Israel's strongly suspected nuclear capability, would "misuse" civilian nuclear materials.

India in 1974 exploded an atomic device, but has not signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which it says is tilted heavily in favour of major nuclear powers. It says its nuclear program is not weapons-oriented.

Talks Under Way

BK2211115091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Negotiations with Iran for the proposed sale of a 10-megawatt research nuclear reactor are at a preliminary stage. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that India is only seeking to export nuclear technology permissible under the existing international laws.

Scientists Develop 'Nuclear Camera'

BK2211092491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] The scientists of the Bhabha Atomic Research Center in Bombay have developed a nuclear camera which has diverse applications in aerospace, ordnance, metallurgy, and biology, in addition to nuclear fields. The camera takes pictures of objects in great detail using a beam of nuclear particles called neutron. In some cases, these pictures are more useful than those taken with X-rays.

Minister on Improved Pakistan Border Situation

BK2211082291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, says there has been some improvement in deescalating India-Pakistan border incidents after the Indian military delegation's visit to Islamabad in September this year.

In a reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Pawar said the delegation had detailed discussions with its Pakistani counterpart for confidence-building measures in the border areas.

Rao Says Election Results Strengthen Government

BK2211084091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister says the trade balance position is much better now. Talking to media persons at the Bangalore airport this morning, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that India will lay emphasis on development at the G-15 meeting in Venezuela.

Referring to the recent elections, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that they have strengthened his hands. He said the Congress-I is a disciplined party and made it clear that it is open for anybody to join it.

The prime minister said that he has not received any letter from the Meghalaya governor on the political developments in the state.

Spokesman Clarifies Punjab Troop Deployment

BK2111145491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The government has clarified that the troop movement in Punjab is only a redeployment of forces within the state and not an Army operation. An official spokesman said that the redeployment was aimed at making the Army readily available to the civil authorities for assistance in maintaining law and order.

The Punjab Pradesh [state] Congress-I Committee [PCC-I] has welcomed the deployment of the Army in the state. In a statement in Chandigarh today, the PCC-I president, Mr. Beant Singh, described it as a good step which will help restore the confidence of the people.

Minister Calls for Direct Foreign Investment

BK2211080591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] The government has changed the external economic assistance policy to encourage more direct investment instead of loans. The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, said during question hour in the Lok Sabha that the policy followed by the successive governments to attract foreign assistance has now been reversed and emphasis has been shifted on investment components in the assistance package. He said India has not received substantial foreign investments compared to even some of the other developing countries like China. He informed that the country has repaid a substantial part of its foreign loans, including the amount raised by pledging the gold this year.

The finance minister said the impact of liberalized economic policies can be felt only over a period of time.

Iran

President on Economic Policies at G-77 Session

LD2111201491 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1627 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the opening session of the seventh ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 of the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development in Tehran on 19 November—recorded; following is longer version of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's speech published on page 48 of the 20 November Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Respected audience, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to say how delighted I am at the presence of the esteemed guests of the Tehran conference. I hope that this meeting, which is considered to be the largest existing economic gathering of developing countries, may be successful in bringing about cohesiveness in politico-economic relations between member countries; offer effective and useful solutions to the increasing economic difficulties of these countries; and also help to raise the standard of living of our nations, which make up the majority of the population of the world.

Dear audience, this gathering is taking place at a time when the world politico-economic situation has changed considerably since the establishment of the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development [UNCTAD]. Many important developments have taken place, including the ending of conditions caused by the cold war, fundamental changes in the politico-economic structure of most of the countries that had centralized economic planning systems, the increasing importance of technical information and information technology, the projected new world order and efforts to implement it, developments in concepts and models, and new world alignments.

These developments can only promise hopeful prospects if they are directed toward cooperation and the participation of countries in the establishment of international peace and security; and if the resources released from the arms race are utilized to solve fundamental problems, especially those of the developing countries. Serious ambiguities, unfortunately, have been brought about by the appearance of signs of an expansionist spirit on the part of the big powers; the persistence of regional crises;

the absence of international security guarantees in the face of external threats; the helplessness of organizations responsible for the preservation and maintainance of international peace and security to solve crises justly; and, finally, the existence of discrimination and the biased nature of one-sided political objectives and aims in arms control projects.

The crisis resulting from the Persian Gulf war has placed the economies of some of the countries in the region in an unfavorable situation. This crisis produced conditions that resulted in billions of dollars worth of resources belonging to the countries of the region being used for arms purchases and military expenditures, or to pay for the military expeditions of the hegemonic powers. The economic and social expansion of the region consequently has been postponed. The destruction of the environment, the flood of millions of refugees to neighboring countries, and the underhanded acts of exploitation by the occupying and racist Zionists were also among the consequences of that war.

Honorable audience, strong and increasing economic inequalities still persist between the developed and the developing countries at a time when a new world order is being formed. The existing technological gap and economic inequality between them pose a threat to economic relations and even to international peace and security. This necessitates immediate and effective action by all countries, particularly the developed countries, to reduce the gap. This meeting should stress the obligation of the advanced industrial countries to implement their historical commitments in relation to economic issues.

The development and growth of Third World countries should be based on the cultural and social realities that exist in those countries. Economic development cannot take place without the development of human resources. Furthermore, unsuitable world economic conditions and financial and economic obstacles, which exist in the majority of developing countries because of lack of credits and social resources, have presented these countries with a number of problems, and have created serious difficulties in the appropriate use of cultural and human resources.

What is more, it is necessary for the international community to pay special attention to protecting vulnerable classes in the process of development.

Dear guests, if we consider war and peace as the most important topic in 20th-century international relations, the issue of development and the eradication of poverty in its various aspects should be regarded by the international community as the most crucial issue of the 21st century. We should start serious moves toward that end with the necessary planning in the current decade.

Many advanced, industrialized countries have taken necessary steps and made necessary plans to prepare themselves for the widespread challenges of the new century. These countries are also ready to combat challenges. Developing countries, because of their limitations and shortcomings, possess relatively fewer resources to combat future problems. It is necessary for these problems to be given more attention by UNCTAD and its main nucleus, the Group of 77.

Right now, the EEC is in the process of carrying out important economic, financial, monetary, and political measures within the framework of the European concept of 1992 and 1993. If these measures are realized they will entail comprehensive developments at the international level and especially in relation to developing economies.

Furthermore, developments in Eastern Europe mark the start of a new era in East-West relations. The intense need of these countries for resources that will help their expansion—notably financial resources—will give rise to special problems and results.

Regional cooperation among developing countries is a strategy for achieving collective self-reliance. It renders the struggles of developing countries along the path of economic growth and expansion more fruitful. Regional cooperation as an efficient means to face problems stemming from politico-economic world developments can play an important role in national reconstruction and regional expansion.

Another prerequisite for sustained growth in the next decade is the safeguarding of the environment. The main responsibility regarding pollution and the indiscriminate consumption of natural resources rests with the developed countries; nevertheless, the issue of safeguarding the environment is raised by them in such a way as to create practical problems in the developing countries. Spending on research and the financial burden of reducing pollution is a part of those countries' responsibilities; part of the pollution sustained by the environment in most developing countries is either beyond their control and jurisdiction or springs from the production methods imposed by developed countries.

Honorable delegates: The debate over the new world order and the effort to implement it necessitates the serious attention of the developing countries. The new world order must be the harbinger of a real end to the cold war, the reduction of the arms race and world disarmament; real cooperation between the North and the South; an end to the process of plunder and colonization of the nations that have been held back; attention to the cultural and social values of other countries; a reduction of the increasing gap between the industrial and developing countries; encouragement of the economic, cultural, social, and political growth and development of the developing countries, including the elevation of their position in the arena of the world economy and support for their further endeavor to achieve economic and social development and world peace and security.

The success of the new world order is dependent on organizing the development of social, political, and

economic issues of the developing countries. That order should be based on the United Nations Charter; on the principles of justice, love of peace, equality, mutual respect, independence, and sovereignty and security of all countries. UNCTAD, and its centerpoint and complimentary section, the Group of 77, can continue as a useful and effective group to hold discussions on the North-South dialogue, and be also strengthened along those same lines.

It seems extremely necessary for UNCTAD to have extensive cooperation, avcid biases, and maintain its organizational flexibility to be able to respond to recent political and economic world developments. What that requires is to reach a common understanding and to gain a similar awareness of world economic issues and their effects and consequences, and to strive to find defined practical solutions. I hope this session will be able successfully to perform those tasks.

The developing countries must devise a comprehensive system for economic and technical cooperation among themselves and thus offer new patterns for cooperation aimed at strengthening their economic structure and ensuring sustained growth. This kind of cooperation lessens the economic dependence of the countries in question on the developed countries. The foreign debt crisis of the developing countries is among the important obstacles in the way of growth and economic development. We will go on witnessing the continued sorry state of these debts as long as the amount of debt repayment is influenced by the incorrect monetary policies of the industrialized countries, and as long as the prices of commodities and primary products of the developing countries are on a downward trend as a result of unjust policies of the developed countries.

It would, undoubtedly, be simple-minded and unduly optimistic for us to hope that the developed countries would voluntarily act to compensate for their past aggressions by trying to narrow the gap between the South and the North. We must be sure that they naturally will adopt a way to widen the gap between the developed and the backward countries. If we fail to devise a serious and effective initiative on our own, then we must wait for yet a darker future. Undoubtedly, we have resources that we can use to correct the wrong and unjust course prevailing in the past. Unfortunately, many of our resources are being utilized currently by the same advanced governments while we are deprived of them. Rich resources, manpower, vast consumption markets, immense potential to absorb investment and technology, and other valuable resources will provide many of our needs if we use them through solid and proper programming. Unfortunately, each one of us separately receives or pays for the said resources through a number of intermediaries from the same advanced countries. Why can we not exchange these resources directly among ourselves?

We expect this session to have answers and provide solutions to these questions and bitter truths. It would be right for UNCTAD to consider the political, security, and social difficulties of its family of member states in the Third World and for it to use its power and influence to solve their problems in international decisionmaking bodies.

One useful outcome of meetings like this is the exchange of successful experience gained by various members. I would like to summarize our country's fruitful policies of the past two years. I would like to announce that the experts of the Islamic Republic of Iran are prepared to provide any explanations required by the esteemed members. In return we expect to become familiar with the fruitful results of the intitiatives undertaken by your countries. The main points of our achievements are as follows:

1. Reduction of the government's direct intervention, and elimination of a major part of state intervention in production, distribution, and investment in society.

2. Movement toward the creation of a balance in the government budget by reducing expenditure incurred from state intervention in the economy, a logical approach to the payment of subsidies, the allocation of some state activities to the private sector, and also increased efficiency of the taxation system by improvement and amendment of the taxation law so as to encourage people to invest in manufacturing.

3. Amendment of the state currency system, reduction in the various exchange rates, and confinement of these to the present three rates [official, competitive, and floating rates], and movement toward the realization of the goal of a single rate system.

4. Preparation of suitable grounds for attracting the appropriate technology and effective application of this technology in the country's industries; and also the establishment and expansion of the scientific and research centers and universities so as to upgrade the level of knowledge and technology in the country.

5. Removal of obstacles to domestic and foreign investment in the country by relying on existing laws and creating proper grounds for sound participation of the capitals in production and export projects.

6. Liberalization of foreign trade, and creation of proper grounds for expanding the activity of the popular sector [as heard] in export and import, creation of free trade zones, and starting of the review of tariffs and customs regulations for facilitating and expanding international exchange.

7. Liberalization of the banking system; removal of credit ceilings; and utilization of the usual instruments of monetary policy with the purpose of guiding financial resources; controlling the volume of money and also moving toward the goal of limiting those monetary instruments, which are not organized; and finally the establishment of a disciplined and efficient fiscal order.

8. Expansion of private sector ownership by offering shares of state-owned and nationalized companies as well as activating the stock exchange.

9. Expansion of international and regional cooperation placing specific stress on the developing countries. Also, making efforts for having an effective and dynamic presence in the international political and economic scenes as well as expanding reciprocal ties with international organizations.

10. Paying special attention to expansion and development of insfrastructure as well as to mother industries with a view to decreasing economic dependence.

11. Orderly move within the framework of the plan and avoiding any kind of contradictory measures aimed at solving difficulties in an ad hoc manner.

The final results of many policies adopted during recent years will be apparent in medium- and long-term statistics. Available evidence speaks of the country's successes in various fields of the economy. For example, the most important result of these policies has been that of securing a considerable economic growth rate and speedy movement toward general equilbrium and structural reforms.

Our country has shown a very desirable performance during the past two years in the field of national economy. Our gross domestic product [GDP], which during the years toward the end of the war was faced with negative growth, achieved growth rates of 4 percent and 10.5 percent in the years 68 and 69 [Iranian years ending 20 March 1990 and 20 March 1991]. The available evidence speaks of the continuation of the same growth pattern in the current year.

It is to be noted that the economic boom during these years was achieved under conditions in which inflationary pressures were considerably reduced. The reduction in the rate of inflation is one of the most important achievements of the recent policies with due regard to elimination of controls and the stoppage of the pricing policies on many goods. And it can be looked at as a successful experience in attaining balanced prices.

Regarding the government's fiscal policies, existing figures show the positive effect of these policies in the establishment of balance in the state's budget. They have drastically reduced the budget deficit. That deficit was reduced by around 70 percent during the past three years and its ratio to GDP was restricted from 9.2 percent in the year 1367 to less than 2 percent.

Recent policies in connection with the rationalization of the rate of foreign exchange, provision of facilities through regulations, and the removal of obstacles to exports have had desirable results with regard to the export of our nonpetroleum products. The export of the nation's nonpetroleum products has risen over twofold. It is expected that the upward trend of the exports will continue in the future as before.

The results mentioned show correct and constructive policies and programs considering the continuing obstructionism and troublemaking of domineering powers—considering the heavy cost of reconstruction, the compensation of the earthquake tragedy and last year's flood, and the hosting of millions Iraqi and Afghan refugees; and considering the immense damage caused by the imposed war, which cost around $1 trillion.

In conclusion, let me once again thank you, dear honorable guests, for your presence. I hope this session can lead to the growth and desired expansion of developing countries, the raising of their world status, and the increase in the standard of living and welfare for the peoples with a spirit of cooperation and unity of views. I leave all you dear guests in God's good hands. May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.

Habibi, Bangladeshi Minister on Expanding Ties

NC2211112991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] First Vice President Habibi met Bangladeshi Commerce Minister Mohammad Anwar and discussed strengthening ties among Third World countries.

Referring to international political developments, he stated: Muslim countries, particularly in the Third World, should be active in broadening bilateral and multilateral ties and should start planning a massive common market.

Mr. Habibi expressed the hope that the Group of 77 session will foster broader ties and cooperation among these countries as well as Asian and Muslim countries of the region.

The Bangladeshi commerce minister emphasized expanding economic relations between Iran and Bangladesh.

421 Iraqi Prisoners of War Unilaterally Released

LD2211113991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT

[Text] Today 421 Iraqi prisoners of war in the Islamic Republic of Iran unilaterally were released.

According to a Central News Unit report from Bakhtaran, these prisoners of war were handed over to the Iraqi authorities in ceremonies in the presence of Colonel (Ladzic), the UN representative, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Leaders Meet Basij Commanders, Praise Spirit

President Urges Constant Presence

LD1811213791 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Excerpt] The president has met with a group of model commanders from various ranks of the basij [mobilization] resistance forces, and model basij forces from all over the country. He urged them to strengthen the spiritual capability of the basij forces and maintain their constant presence in various fields to defend the Islamic revolution.

The president also praised the self-sacrifices of the basij forces in defending the achievements of the Islamic revolution, particularly during the imposed war with Iraq. He said: Basij Week is an appropriate opportunity for people to remember the spiritual atmosphere of the holy defense years. He termed the future plans of the basij as useful and reiterated the necessity for implementation of those plans.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani elaborated on the new conditions which have prevailed since the imposed war, and on the huge problems caused by that war. He said: During the imposed war the basij force were outstanding individuals who volunteered to take part in operations and contributed a great deal to the holy defense. At present they should also continue to actively participate in the future programs of the basij forces with the same voluntary spirit.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also stressed that more attention should be paid to the basij of sisters [women basij forces] and to increasing its forces. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i on Strengthening Corps

LD2111130291 Tehran IRNA in English 1051 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i here Thursday stated that voluntary popular forces were complementary to the armed forces in each country.

Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, made the remark in an address to a group of the visiting commanders of Basij (mobilization) forces.

"Basij, as a popular force, is the axis and basis for defending the revolution. Therefore, further strengthening of the corps is essential," stressed the leader.

The leader underlined the high morale of the Basij forces and their effective presence wherever God Almighty had determined as their major task. To this end, the leader stressed, Basij forces should vigilantly recognize their domestic and foreign enemies and should strongly stand against them.

Prior to the leader's remarks, Basij Commander Brigadier General 'Alireza Afshar reported on the measures taken for training and organization of the 20-million strong army.

Musavi-Ardebili Delivers Friday Prayer Sermons

LD2211115391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Nov 91

[Text] Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili expressed condolences for the death of Her Holiness Fatimah in today's Friday prayer sermons. He said: Few people were praised as her holiness was in God's book. He declared: Undoubtedly the Kowthar verse in the holy Koran is a tribute to Her Eminence Fatimah. This demonstrates the value of the honorable daughter of the prophet of Islam to God Almighty. He added: Her Holiness Fatimah, peace be upon her, while being a model daughter, wife, and mother, was considered a stateswoman. Her holiness's sermons and comments confirm this.

Referring to Basij Week, the acting Tehran Friday imam described the valuable services rendered by the Basijis throughout the imposed war as unforgettable. He called on the Basijis to continue their presence on the scene of the revolution. He also stressed that their needs must be provided for, saying that serving the self-sacrificing Basijis is a duty.

He then pointed out problems at the Ministry of Education and Training, describing the satisfaction of the requirements of that ministry as necessary for the well-being of society. Referring to the need to set up 100,000 school classes throughout the country, he called on the public to cooperate.

Finally, commenting on international issues, he warned: The fight against Islamic movements is given priority by the arrogant, for the world's future. This requires redoubled alertness and awareness by the Muslims. He described the situation as very dangerous and called on the people of the region to come forth to combat the plans of arrogance.

Kurds Denounce Law Enforcement Task Force

NC1811222091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Station commentary: "What Can the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Task Force Achieve?"]

[Excerpts] The plethora of centers of authority and the creation of various departments for the repression of our compatriots and Iranian freedom-seekers is one of the characteristics of the mullahs' administrative system.

Ever since they came to power, the clerics have made strides to impose their authority on the people and to preempt all expressions of protest and discontentment by setting up repressive organizations, such as the

Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC], the mobilization, and the so-called revolutionary committees [komitehs].

This apparatus created repression without defining the boundaries and limits of their power and had a free hand in bearing down on the lives and property of the people in a savage manner. They imprisoned and killed people and plundered and pillaged their wealth and assets without a qualm.

The abundance of centers of power and the absence of any clear delineation of their jurisdiction is one of the problems facing the people of our country. It recently has become a problem for the mullahs' as well.

In fact, each of these centers has become a government within a government, with each acting on its own whims and caprices to kill and harass people and pilfer their property. Until this pressure and brutal behavior was directed toward the people to repress them and strangle protests of the dissatisfied freedom-seekers, the mullah regime called all their actions and conduct revolutionary and Islamic and labelled defense of Islam and service to the divine government. Not only did they not hinder their activities, they expressed their appreciation for them.

When the monopolistic tendencies of these centers and their efforts to extort more power and influence became a problem for the regime, and even generated power struggles and rivalries, the ruling mullahs decided that they should be merged into one unit so that they continue their repression of the people and prevent a multiplicity of power centers within the regime's hierarchy.

He attempted to merge the Armed Forces and the IRGC to create one force to defend the regime when he came into power. He then merged the Islamic Revolution Committees, the police, and the Gendarmerie and created one law enforcement force to eliminate the power struggle and to boost the government's influence and control on these centers.

Of course, the centers of power very soon realized that this merging and combining reduced their authority and sphere of influence. They rose up in protest against mergers and were not prepared to be regrouped in a new law enforcement or military setup or to relinquish their power and influence. Eventually, as we have witnessed, the IRGC did not merge with the Armed Forces. In fact, it remained in its original form and was even extended.

The Islamic Revolution Committees, police, and Gendarmerie have been combined under the title of the so-called Law Enforcement Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the past few months, however, they have not been able to function as a cohesive and unified force or to surmount their internal differences.

The regime's Armed Forces, the IRGC, and the law enforcement forces are supposed to suppress the people and snuff out their protests. However, only a few months since the merger of the Islamic Revolutionary Committees, police, and Gendarmerie, we see that following the proliferation of protests, demonstrations and discontent in Iranian cities, a new instrument of repression has been spawned in the midst of the IRGC with greater powers and facilities to inflict greater brutality on the people.

This special task force created in the ranks of the IRGC recently on the suggestion of the regime's leaders will brutally crack down on the discontented freedom-seekers and have the authority to commit any criminal act to that end. [passage omitted]

It is obvious that the establishment of the special task force of the IRGC with all these inflated powers and facilities betrays, more than anything else, the regime's fear and apprehension about the proliferation of the protests and demonstrations, more articulate expressions of discontent and anger and ultimately, the people's unendurable disgust and united resistance.

Without a doubt, the IRGC, the Armed Forces and the law enforcement forces have not been able to bring the dissatisfied people to their knees or strangle their voices. This is just how successful the new task force of the IRGC will be!

There is no doubt that such an instrument for strangulation will have to come down on its knees before the people with abject despair and defeat.

Proponents of 'Scientific Management' Criticized

NC1811090991 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 29 Oct 91 pp 1, 12

[Unattributed commentary: "The Expansion of Political and Cultural Liberalism"]

[Excerpts] We are hearing new comments these days, not from the enemy, but from our friends. [passage omitted] A former deputy minister said, and we quote: "We have had management by the jurisconsults, except for the first two or three years when there were discrepancies stemming from changes in the country's administration and political system. This was found in an initial survey of the administration after the revolution. Even now the same concept prevails over the administration. The only remedy to the country's woes is scientific management." [passage omitted]

It might be a good idea if the writer of the above would elaborate on who he considers the pioneers of "scientific" thinking, who are those who have been trained in the civil administration academies on these lines, and what is the difference between the "scientific method" and the "jurisconsults' method?"

If he wishes to attribute this historical weakness of his to "dialectical materialism" [preceding two words in English] or to "scientific philosophy" he should know that those who profess the ability to explain everything are not even capable of explaining what is happening in

the street they reside on! They are unable to even give a correct definition of the term "science." [passage omitted]

Is it no mean feat that present and past administrations after the revolution have, with their population of only 50 million [figure as published], been able to—despite internal and external problems—combat the superpowers and deal a strong blow to the belligerent and wealthy powers of the East and West and establish a government on the basis of criteria they formulated themselves. [passage omitted]

Divisive Tendencies in Revolution Discussed

NC1811133691 Tehran BAYAN in Persian 23 Sep-21 Nov 91 pp 4, 5

[Editorial: "Settling of Accounts: A Statement to the People"]

[Excerpts] From the onset of the Islamic revolution—even before 11 February and as the vast popular uprising peaked, when the Shah's downfall became a reality—a fundamental issue has been whether the current revolution is Islamic. Does it introduce a new beginning in a world dominated by apostasy, infidelity, and world arrogance and therefore represent a reciprocal hostility toward all imperialism and arrogance? Or should it be considered a 20th century revolution, based on Western thinking and culture shown by social or political upheavals? [passage omitted]

There appears to be a practical and unwritten union between the two groups in the country. The first consists of those who did not initially accept the Islamic revolution's pure line, silently and indifferently regarding its problems in the system's various parts—especially where the technocrats had the upper hand—seeking to remain aloof and await an opportunity. The second group comprises most of those who were the revolution's true followers and supporters, but who later changed opinion.

This nebulous union centers on a kind of mundane attitude, on the basis of which servile leanings, at the expense of revolution aspirations, are more permissible than a "staunchly realistic attitude."

The breakup of the communist camp and U.S. preponderance on the international scene has influenced those whose basic thinking and ties had a subliminal leaning toward the West. This created the impression that the era of ideological governments based on beliefs has come to an end, and every country forced to join a unipolar international camp whether it likes it or not. In their view it seems the Islamic Republic of Iran has no recourse but to understand and accept this "reality!" and conform to the new situation. [passage omitted]

This thinking is not yet official, but it is clear that at the expert level there are influential elements whose conduct and utterances indicate they think this way.

This trend (the practical union of the forces favoring alignment to the unipolar world camp) finds the revolution's true defenders viewed as intruders impeding the country's salvation and amelioration.

Eliminating elements, who resist absorbing the revolution into the international system, seems to facilitate such a trend.

Its actual base lies in the moderate faction, which is capitalizing on a historical opportunity gained during expansion and reconstruction. By shelving its differences with the rightist faction it is seeking to settle its accounts with the radicals [preceding word in English], paving the way to settle future accounts by removing the greatest impediments in the path of Western affiliation. [passage omitted]

These factions may reap some temporary benefit by attaining the upper hand, construing it as a victory. But there can be no victory for any faction in a struggle on government thinking and politics, if it is removed from the correct logic.

There is a difference between victory after a series of wholesome debates and political confrontations and victory by deceit and illicit, unlawful measures, despite having unlimited means and instruments at your disposal. [passage omitted] It does not benefit current policies' protagonists to strive to "prove" their opinions, not on the basis of factual answers, but solely by resorting to whipping up an atmosphere, and capitalizing on the government's posture and on the lever of intimidation and threats. All attempts to ignore the Islamic Revolution's true and basic principles only benefit the enemy, not any faction in any way....

Peace be upon those who tread the right path [preceding sentence in Arabic].

Commander on Nuclear Weapons; Exercise Ends

LD1911203691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] The last phase of the Zohd-1 maneuver, with the participation of the three branches of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, ended in the southern region of the country at noon today after fully achieving the objectives of the exercise. The last phase of the maneuver began with several squadrons of the fighter bombers of the Iranian Air Force bombing targets deep inside positions of a hypothetical enemy. Then dozens of C-130 planes dropped arms and ammunition needed by hundreds of paratroopers and helicopter operators behind the battlelines of the hypothetical enemy.

Commando rangers armed with light and medium weight weapons, utilizing military tactics and experience gained during the eight years of holy war, surrounded the forces of the hypothetical enemy and completed their mopping up operations. During this maneuver, dozens

of sophisticated tanks providing cover for armored infantry forces took up positions at strategic points to protect the paratroopers.

After the conclusion of the Zohd-1 maneuver, Major General Shahbazi, chief of the joint staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, referred to the Zohd-1 maneuver as the largest maneuver in the history of the Iranian Armed Forces. He said: More than 50,000 Army troops, utilizing their repaired equipment, demonstrated their might and combat capability in an area of 1,500 square kilometers.

He added: The Iranian Armed Forces, in accordance with instructions of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, are ready for any sacrifice in order to safeguard the aspirations of the sacred system of Iran.

Rejecting the Western propaganda on Iran's search for nuclear weapons, the chief of the joint staff said: We believe war with nuclear weapons is a war against humanity. We have never sought to acquire or build such weapons for the same reason. We never consider it part of an honorable war.

UN Adviser Views 'Reconstruction' With Zanganeh

NC2111145591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Mr. Abdirahim Abbi Farah, senior adviser to the UN secretary general and chief of the team of experts assessing damages to Iran during the imposed war, met Energy Minister Zanganeh yesterday.

Mr. Zanganeh explained how damaged water and power supply units and equipment are being reconstructed, and discussed overall reconstruction during this meeting. He said that damage to water and power installations was more than 400 billion rials.

UK's Hurd Sends Message to Velayati on Hostages

LD2111225391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The British charge d'affaires in Tehran today submitted the written message of his country's minister of foreign affairs, addressed to Mr. Velayati, to the director-general of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of Western Europe. In the said message, Mr. Douglas Hurd, the British minister of foreign affairs, expressed thanks for the humanistic efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in releasing the Western hostages and stressed that all the captive hostages, irrespective of their nationality and no matter where they are, must be released.

Continuing, the message expressed the British foreign minister's desire for expanded ties between the two countries, and requested to be in touch with our country's minister of foreign affairs in the future.

Economic Cooperation Memo Signed With PRC

NC2111150991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and the PRC signed a memorandum of understanding to broaden economic and industrial cooperation, especially on non-ferrous metals. Signing were our Mines and Metals Minister Mr. Mahlujchi and his Beijing counterpart. They agreed to cooperate on constructing a copper-producing factory with an annual production capacity of 200,000 tonnes, and a cement factory, annual production capacity 1,000 tonnes.

Aims of Bartholomew Visit to Pakistan Viewed

LD2111090791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The U.S. under secretary of state for international security affairs, Reginald Bartholomew, has arrived in Pakistan to discuss the dispute between America and Pakistan over its nuclear program. In the opinion of the United States, Pakistan, in the course of its nuclear research, has ignored certain restrictions resulting in the suspension of an annual $600 million U.S. aid to that country. However, Islamabad construes America's antagonistic measures in another way, believing that Washington, in pursuit of its policy of weakening Islamic states, is obstructing Pakistan's efforts to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

There has been (?mooted) various reasons as to why the White House is targetting its propaganda at Pakistan, and by suspending its promised aid is adding to that country's economic planning constraints. Despite this, some experts believe that Pakistan does not have the past importance for America. [passage omitted]

It is not so clear as to what extent the Pakistani officials' talks with Mr. Bartholomew in Islamabad will be effective in resolving their differences, but the Nawaz Sharif government, due to its economic problems, is not indifferent towards reducing those differences. However, one should not ignore the point that Islamabad cannot resolve its economic constraints with the help of some specific U.S. aid.

The experience gained by countries which pin their hopes on Washington to resolve their problems shows that they have only become more underdeveloped and dependent in the end. The views of that group of Pakistani statesmen within the government, which stress Islamabad's stand on not accepting U.S. pressures and dismissing every sort of restriction on and discrimination towards Pakistan's nuclear program, are now more

popular among the Muslim nation of that country because of such observations.

At any rate, U.S.-Pakistan ties are influenced by numerous factors, with the nuclear program in Pakistan being only an apparent pretext. A more important factor in this regard perhaps is the U.S. concern over Pakistan's closeness with the Islamic Republic of Iran and China, as Washington is deeply worried over the expansion of these relations. For this reason, one can assume that the Pakistani Muslims' anti-American feelings will be escalated and, parallel to it, Islamabad will have no alternative but to stress its independence of action and nonsubmission in the face of political and propaganda maneuvers of America. Apparently the main objective of Mr. Bartholomew's visit to Islamabad is to bring about moderation in the popular anti-U.S. sentiments rather than to (?shift) Washington's hostile strategy against the people of Pakistan, as such differences between Pakistan and America are rooted in complications that cannot be resolved in the course of one or several visits.

Commentary—Hostility Against U.S. To Continue

NC1911084691 Tehran SALAM in Persian 5 Nov 91 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Permanent Animosity"]

[Excerpts] The overt hostility against the United States, which began on 4 November 1979, continues. You would think that in this time the United States had done all it could to annihilate the Islamic Revolution. This is evidenced by political, military, and economic assistance to Iraq during the war against Iran; economic embargoes; political pressure on international organizations and in the region; and in efforts to influence and initiate hostile trends, as arrested spies have confessed in recent years. It goes on ad infinitum!

Some are construing that we have no other recourse, but to mend fences with the United States, since U.S. power has become an international reality, especially since the end of the cold war and its domination. We need foreign economic and technological assistance in this era of reconstruction, but in every step we take the United States strives to throw a wrench in the works. We must think of a way to counteract this. [passage omitted]

How can the United States wish to mend fences with a system categorically opposed to its forces' in the Persian Gulf and its interests in the region; which rejects its disarmament plans for the Middle East; which raises slogans on the need to annihilate Israel; and which hinders the new U.S. world order by convening conferences such as that supporting Palestine in Tehran?

The United States will not be satisfied with anything less than completely destroying the Islamic Revolution as long as the rhetoric of force reigns supreme. Today's equilibrium stems from revolutionary Islam's power against the arch-Satan's materialistic power. Revolutionary Islam's power comes from its uncompromising attitude and its so-called radical stances. From the materialistic point of view, how else could we ever compete with them? [passage omitted]

What logic lies behind suggestions for resuming ties with Egypt, when Camp David is being reborn in Madrid, or proposals for broadening ties with Persian Gulf shaykhs, each day handing over a new segment of Islamic land to the aggressing forces?

Should we not sense danger when Bubiyan Island is handed over to U.S. forces? What dangers do NATO moves in southern Turkey and the Persian Gulf aim to prevent? The Iraqi military structure has been destroyed in the Persian Gulf according to their claims, and Western investigating teams under the guise of the United Nations are finishing the job. Direct U.S. influence and pressure are being exerted on Lebanon to strengthen the government and restrict Islamic and revolutionary trends.

These are realities and their dangers. They have targetted Islamic Revolution security, so we should enter the foray to protect it with all our might. [passage omitted]

U.S. Said 'Preparing' To Move Against Nation

NC1611120391 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES International Weekly in English 7 Nov p 2

[Editorial: "On the Alert Against U.S. Machinations"]

[Text] The effect of the Tehran International Conference on Palestine in dispelling the atmosphere of awe before Washington's determination in imposing a prefabricated settlement on the Palestinian issue, and the largely inconsequential end of the Madrid conference, have led some political observers to believe that after Palestine the Islamic Republic of Iran could become the next target of American machinations.

The new propaganda move, initiated by THE WASHINGTON POST magazine and quickly and widely taken up by the majority of the Western mass media concerning Iran's development of nuclear weapons, is only the preliminary stage of a scheme which is aimed at preparing world public opinion before interference in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic.

Iranian officials have dismissed the accusations as baseless lies, and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, during the visit of his Chinese counterpart recently, commented on the propaganda uproar: "The U.S. misrepresents friendly relations between countries as attempts at acquisition of nuclear weapons with the aim of preparing grounds for intervention in the internal affairs of countries".

China also denied that the know-how it had delivered to Iran could be used to develop nuclear arms, and that the equipment it had sold Iran were only intended for nuclear medical diagnosis, nuclear physical research and

for educational purposes. These types of peaceful applications of nuclear energy is common practice, and it is irrational to accuse Iran of trying to prepare weapons of mass destruction on the grounds of possessing nuclear equipment which had been inspected by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In his weekly press conference, First Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi, stressed that Tehran is essentially against the deployment of weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, microbiological or chemical. He further reiterated that IAEA is aware of Tehran's nuclear researches and peaceful applications.

The coordinated efforts of almost all Western media at spreading the rumor is to obviously out of proportion with the unreliability of the unidentified sources of the "news", that it is hard to imagine the movement started without some ulterior political motive. And the concurrence of the whole propaganda hue and cry with the visit of the Chinese president to Iran, clearly points to the conclusion that Washington is not only trying to prepare world psychological atmosphere for possible intervention in Iran, but that it is also persistently following the policy of preventing improvement of friendly relations between the Islamic Republic and other countries, and of keeping Iran in political isolation.

Challenge of 'U.S. Monopoly of Power' Viewed

NC1811212391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 18 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Day after day, hour after hour, the world is being subjected to a propaganda campaign by the U.S. Administration and its Western allies against a number of Islamic countries in the framework of the policy of blackmail and hegemony that the United States is trying to impose on the entire world.

One example of this propaganda is the threats against Libya in connection with the Pan Am bombing three years ago. Other examples are the pressure against Iran, Algeria, and Pakistan on the pretext that these countries are trying to manufacture nuclear weapons. China and India were not spared this campaign of pressure. Washington is accusing them of having ignored warnings and of involvement in projects of nuclear cooperation with a number of Islamic countries.

Such pressure is meant to mask a number of facts that prove the opportunism and deception of U.S. policy. The U.S. professes commitment to sugar-coated slogans that have been found repeatedly to be at odds with U.S. actions. America says one thing and does another. The declared U.S. goals are to contain the spread of nuclear weapons, fight terrorism, protect human rights, defend democracy, and promote market economy. Such are the slogans that America has billed as the principles of its new international order. They are meant only to disguise U.S. hegemony and to make the entire world surrender to American custodianship. Whoever seeks to preserve his independence and reject the hegemony policy is subjected to a wide range of pressure and harassment.

White House officials believe that the collapse of the Soviet Union, the West's alliance with the former Eastern Bloc, and the bankruptcy of the Marxist ideology, allows them to dominate and enslave the world and to impose a unified code of behavior on all countries. This code suits the policies of a Washington that sees itself as the sole superpower and the policeman who is responsible for keeping international peace and security and defending human rights. [passage omitted]

The world is facing a challenge called the U.S. monopoly of power [al-infirad al-amriki]. The so-called new world order will be history's worst disaster unless nations understand that the U.S. threat does not stop at any borders or recognize any standard principles, and that the sole U.S. aim is to promote its own interests at the expense of others. How can peace and justice spread in the world if the strong ones are going to impose their logic and further their own interests? Political and economic independence will turn into an abstract and futile concept unless nations gather their courage and reject the policy of blackmail.

U.S. 'Plot' for 'Global Disorder' Criticized

LD2011214691 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 19 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 19, IRNA—The new world order version of the United States' President and his "clique," said a Persian daily here today, is nothing but a plot to "create global disorder and the law of jungle."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its editorial titled "The Hollow Drum" said George Bush seems to be proud of the submission to his so-called new world order by several incompetent statesmen.

"But," it added, "the great Satan should realize the fact that Iranian statesmen, relying on people's support and their faith in almighty God, pay no attention to such plots and will tread their own path."

Washington's fuss over Iran's right to exploit nuclear technology, said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, will bear no fruit for the U.S. Administration.

"If George Bush and his Pentagon colleagues imagine that they could blackmail Iran by resorting to the same pretext they employed against Iraq, they were making a big mistake," it warned.

The daily questioned: Were not Iraq's nuclear facilities part of the U.S. military assistance to Baghdad in a bid to bring down Iran to its knees during the 1980-88 war?

"But the U.S. gained nothing out of this big plot which dragged on for 8 years. If Bush were a wise man, he should have learned a good lesson from this reality," it said.

"A nation which, for the past 13 years, has proven to the world that the U.S. holds but a hollow drum, will never never bow before drummers," concluded the daily.

Pakistan

Government Welcomes Soviet-Mojahedin Talks

BK2111134491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed the talks between Soviet leaders and Afghan mojahedin in Moscow as an important and positive development. A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said today the joint statement issued at the end of talks was a vindication of the valiant Afghan jihad and a major step in the process for a peaceful political settlement of the Afghanistan issue.

He said Pakistan was in agreement with the contents of the joint statement envisaging transfer of power to an interim Islamic government and holding of elections in Afghanistan under the aegis of the Organization of Islamic Conference and the United Nations.

Spokesman Discusses 'Constructive' U.S. Talks

BK2111161591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Pakistan and the United States have held constructive and useful talks in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, and the next round of talks is expected to be held within next two months. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today at the end of the visit to Pakistan by Reginald Bartholomew, U.S. assistant secretary for international security affairs. The spokesman said that the talks helped achieved the important objective of keeping the way open for a dialogue on the main issues. The two sides have also emphasized the need to restore their normal ties.

The spokesman said Pakistan that reiterated its principled stand on the nuclear issue and expressed its desire to maintain long-standing relations with the United States. It will not, however, sacrifice its principles and national interests for this. Both sides exchanged views on the Pakistani prime minister's 6 June proposal for a nuclear-free South Asia. The spokesman added that Pakistan already enjoys the ideological support of the United States on this proposal. China also supports Pakistan in this connection. The spokesman said that there has been a qualitative change in the situation following the Soviet Union's support of Pakistan and its opposition to the Indian stand in this case. India, which had rejected the proposal at the beginning, hinted during the last round of foreign secretary-level talks that it will reconsider its stand.

On Kashmir, the spokesman stated that this was the first issue raised in the context of the regional problems involving India and Pakistan. Pakistan especially clarified its principled stand on the latest situation in the occupied territory and the violation of human rights there. Answering a question, the spokesman said that the United States considers Kashmir to be an issue to be settled between India and Pakistan.

Editorials Assess Relations With United States

Ties 'Rapidly Deteriorating'

BK2111103891 Lahore THE NATION in English 20 Nov 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan-U.S. Talks"]

[Text] The talks in Islamabad between Pakistan and the U.S., on their rapidly deteriorating relations, may or may not have a new agenda, but at least have three new inputs from the U.S. side—a new U.S. Ambassador, a coincidental visit of General Joseph P. Hoar of the U.S. central command and of course the U.S. Under-Secretary of State for International Security, Mr Reginald Bartholomew. No government changes its policies overnight, the U.S. being no exception, but the induction of new personalities could mean an effort to see if fresh openings could be found in a relationship of a crucial nature. Mr Wasim Sajjad, the Senate Chairman, along with Mr Akram Zaki, Secretary-General of Foreign Affairs, visited the U.S. not so long ago. They found little cause for optimism, so far as the American perception of our nuclear programme is concerned. And Mr Akram Zaki is again leading the Pakistan delegation in Islamabad. That Pakistan does not want the present rift to widen, is fairly clear. It will try to repair the damage, if possible, without compromising its nuclear programme, which so far as Pakistan is concerned, is not weapon-oriented. If nothing comes out of these talks, a possibility hard to overlook, there will be no financial or military aid, but Pakistan may then try to avert a complete break. It is futile now to protest against the application of Pressler Amendment which being Pakistan specific does not affect India, Israel and others. If the U.S. chooses to be discriminatory, there is little that Pakistan can do about it. As the U.S. sees it, it does not have to follow any code of international ethics when it is in pursuit of its own interests. These interests, it seems, dictate that Pakistan should not acquire a nuclear capability, even if the countries around it have one. That it would mean knuckling under the nuclear blackmail of others and letting Pakistan's own security interests go by the board, because someone wishes to appoint India as the regional policeman, is an argument that the U.S. has not found persuasive enough.

So, apart from all this, what is new? One option, that has recently been talked about, is to declare Pakistan a terrorist state, not really because of Kashmir, but because that would facilitate imposition of a total embargo against Pakistan, forcing Pakistan to accept U.S. diktat, or so it is hoped. All one can say is that it should not come to that. The U.S. must have, one assumes, learnt by now that many countries of the world subjected to U.S. sanctions have been able to survive and

survive well. The second option is to find a middle ground betweend what the U.S. wants and what Pakistan can, without sacrificing its security interests, live with. The second option will, however, be explored only if the U.S. feels that Pakistan has a place in its regional strategic interests or the so-called New World Order. If not, let us hope that we can part as friends. The future can always take care of itself.

U.S. Suffers 'Credibility Crisis'

BK2111102691 Lahore THE NATION in English 21 Nov 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Seeking Credible Friends"]

[Text] On the eve of Pak [Pakistani]-U.S. talks in Islamabad nothing could have been more pertinent than President Ghulam Ishaq telling the visiting Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Central Command that the U.S. must demonstrate through consistency of policy that it is a credible friend. Whether or not Washington still deems to have any use for Pakistan as a friend and ally in the aftermath of the Cold War's demise, the current impasse in Pak-U.S. relations speaks volumes of how an 'expedient relationship' has failed to stand the test of time. The U.S. General is reported to have told the President that the 'basic relationship' remains unchanged, albeit the U.S. and Pakistan might have disappointed each other from time to time. Ironically, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State for International Security had, a few days ago, threatened to classify Pakistan as a 'terrorist-state', if it did not wind up its nuclear programme and stopped assisting the Kashmiri freedom-fighters. Unless the State Department and the Pentagon were working at cross-purposes, there is no conceivable reason to accept even at face value what the U.S. General wants us to believe. Hopefully, he has got the message that Islamabad is no longer willing to be taken in by empty rhetoric while being brazenly browbeaten for the 'one and the only, disappointment' it might have caused to Washington -refusal to barter away its sovereignty and national honour for remaining on the right side of the big brother.

The President has minced no words to bring home the 'missing link' in the relationship which the visiting U.S. General wants to be as 'cordial and close' as in the early eighties. 'Pakistan respects U.S. laws, but the U.S. should also respect Pakistan's sovereignty and its national policies formulated as an independent nation to meet its security concerns and geopolitical compulsions', he told him. There are no permanent friends or enemies in politics, is an old proverb, but, nevertheless there have always been some rules of the game which largely determine the nature of relationship among nations. And if cordiality and closeness have turned into tension and distrust it surely reflects a crisis of credibility. Notwithstanding its superpower status, its new-born clout as the sole global overlord in particular, if the U.S. wishes to seek and renounce friendships at will to suit its convenience, and by arbitrarily changing the rules of the game, it is not a recipe that any self-respecting nation would like to buy. Pakistan, in particular has had the bitter experience of being conveniently used as a proxy in battles that the U.S. wanted to fight to sustain its world hegemony, but was left in the lurch when it expected its 'friends' to come to its help in its hour of need. Pakistan has been in the past taken for a ride for too long, and can no longer afford to be roped in for a new lease of cordial, and close relations with those whose vows of friendship suffer from a credibility crisis.

Nonproliferation Should Apply to All

BK2111103491 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Nov 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Non-Proliferation Is the Name of the Game"]

[Text] Reginald Bartholomew, born-again crusader of peace, romped through Islamabad brandishing the banner of non-proliferation. Articulate and persuasive, he presented his case with great skill and passion. Missing was any sign of recall. Surely, Mr Bartholomew knows how in the 1950s—the years of "pactitis"—U.S. envoys would forcefully impress upon Pakistan the need of becoming a well-armed member of the now infamous regional pacts like SEATO [South East Asia Treaty Organization] and CENTO [Central Treaty Organization]. In 1962, the U.S. Secretary of State, George Ball, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen Maxwell Taylor, required Pakistan to join hands with India in resisting "Chinese aggression." President Ayub Khan resisted the pressure and though he gained Chinese friendship for Pakistan he lost the confidence of the U.S. More recently, the American commitment to peace was expressed in terms of massive supplies of arms to Afghanistan, using Pakistan as a conduit, to roll back the Soviet forces.

The point to emphasise is that behind all the proliferation of conventional, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and long-range missiles has been the U.S. doctrine of "deterrence" (later to develop into star wars) gratefully adopted by the Soviet Union and other major countries as the sole guarantor of national security. The weapons were all manufactured and supplied by the U.S. and the USSR and their allies. Third World countries were mere recipients of these enormous instruments of destruction and many of them spent a major portion of their resources on acquiring the most sophisticated weapon systems which neither enhanced their sense of security nor helped them resolve any of their disputes.

Now the victims of deterrence are expected to become instant messengers of "non-proliferation." One hopes that the Americans will take their current mission to its logical conclusion by demolishing their vast military-industrial complex. They must ban the manufacture and supply of all weapons, conventional, nuclear, biological, and chemical if non-proliferation has to have any meaning.

Pakistan is fully committed to non-proliferation. Mr Bartholomew when he lands in New Delhi will be assured by the Indians that there is no problem between India and Pakistan. Yes there are a few "irritants" (that is what they call international disputes) but these can be easily resolved; after all, the two countries share a common history and must learn to live as good neighbours in their own interest. India means no harm; the Pakistanis are just paranoid. If Mr Bartholomew manages to utter the word Kashmir, he will be immediately reminded that Kashmir is India's internal affair. The Americans are free to talk about human rights in Beijing, not in New Delhi.

The Indians will also assure Mr Bartholomew that non-proliferation remains India's cherished goal which they will pursue after they have exploded a few more bombs and acquired the latest missiles with U.S. assistance. India, after all, is not in the same league as Pakistan. As a major power it must look after the affairs of the region not for any nationalistic expansionist reasons but for peace and stability—exactly what the Americans are doing under the New World Order.

Minister Denies Israeli Agents Present in Senate

BK2111162091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Nov 91

[Text] Nazir Ahmed Chisti and Akhundzada Baharwar Sayed did not press their motions in the Senate today on reports concerning the presence of Israeli service personnel and their involvement in the arms scandal, following the statement by Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs. The minister of state, while opposing the motions, described the reports as false and fabricated and said these are part of a campaign to spread false reports about Pakistan in certain Islamic states. He added that there is no question of any Israeli presence in Pakistan.

The Senate has now adjourned sine die.